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BIRTH.

On the 30th January, at "Beryl," Kowloon, the wife of Captain JACKSON, s.s. *Loosok*, of a daughter

MARRIAGES.

On the 20th January, 1898, at the British Consulate-General, Shanghai, by Mr. G. Jamieson, and afterwards at the Cathedral, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., SAMUEL CHILVER, to LUCIE BLEE, both of London.

On the 28th January, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, ALFRED NORTON HUKE, to KATE, daughter of the Rev. ALEXANDER FRASER, Oban, Scotland.

DEATHS.

At Kobe, on the 18th January, RICHARD M. SCHOFIELD (a native of Manchester, England), aged 74 years.

On the 23rd January, at his residence, No. 25, Kobe, KARL HEINRICH WILHELM DÖBBELING (a native of Hamburg), in his 37th year.

ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

The Canadian mail of the 4th January arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 27th January (23 days); the American mail of the 28th December arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Doric*, on the 27th January (30 days); and the French mail of the 31st December arrived, per M. M. steamer *Natal*, on the 1st February (32 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

H.E. Sir William Robinson left Hongkong yesterday on the expiration of his term of office as Governor of the colony.

According to native information from Fukien two German men-of-war were early in the month surveying the coast off Funing, which is known to Chinese as Sansa Bay.—*China Gazette*.

The *Courrier de Saigon* records the return of Mr. Oddera to Saigon from a shooting trip in the plateaux of the Mois country during which he had shot thirteen elephants, bringing up his total record for these animals to eighty-five, besides which he had four rhinoceroses and three tigers.

The protocol between Great Britain and Japan respecting patents, trade marks, and designs, signed at London on the 20th October last, is published in the *Government Gazette*. There is also published the convention between Great Britain and France relative to Tunis, which was signed at Paris on 18th September, 1897.

Last week's mail was the last of the P. & O. Thursday departures and after the French mail to-day Saturday will be the day of departure for both English and French mails. There will be two French mails together, namely, on Wednesday, 2nd February, and Saturday, 12th February, the next P. & O. departure being on Saturday, 19th February.

A Seoul despatch of the 18th January, translated by the *Kobe Chronicle* from Japanese vernacular papers, states that the Korean Government proposed to send two Korean officials (one being Chin Sho-kun, who when Foreign Minister opposed the engagement of Russian military instructors) to England, but the Finance Department under M. Alexieff has refused to sanction the necessary expenditure.

Through the energy of General Tchêng Kitong, the Superintendent of the new Chinese Bund at Shanghai, it was brilliantly illuminated for the first time on Chinese New Year's Eve with from 30 to 40 electric lamps, the machinery running the lights being temporarily erected in a wooden building near the Taiping jetty, outside the East-gate. The electric light will probably also be introduced into the native city some time this year, together with the new waterworks, the foundations for which were already begun at the close of last year.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *Japan Mail* states that a telegram has been received by the Standard Oil Co. at Yokohama, to the effect that the ship *Alexander Gibson*, which left New York on July 27th last for Yokohama with 75,850 cases kerosine, encountered a violent storm en route, and was blown ashore on a small island near Sydney, receiving considerable damage, but no casualties occurred. The Captain reached Sydney and cabled the head office of the Standard Oil Co. It is said that the repairs of the vessel will take two or three months to complete, and that some of the damaged cargo will probably be sold by auction at Sydney.

The *Straits Times* publishes the following information as to prospective service movements in the Straits:—H.E. Sir Charles Mitchell will arrive from India, via Ceylon, about the 15th of February. Mr. J. A. Swettenham, Colonial Secretary, will arrive from Europe on the 15th of March. Sir Charles Mitchell will shortly afterwards sail for Europe, probably on nine months' leave. H.E. will return early in 1899, and will resume, for a year, the duties of governing the Straits. During the absence of Sir Charles Mitchell, it is expected that Mr. J. A. Swettenham will be Acting Governor, and that Mr. Kynnersley will continue to act as Colonial Secretary.

According to the *Japan Herald*, Captain Thompson is organising a Klondike expedition, and the steamer *Takasago-maru* has been purchased for the purpose from the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. The *Takasago-maru* was formerly known as the *Delta*, and belonged to the P. & O. Company. Her net tonnage is 1,287, and her nominal horse power 360.

The Queen Mother of Korea, wife of Tai Wonkun, has just died at the age of 80 years, and national mourning has been decreed in her honour. She was married at the age of 20 years and had two sons and two daughters, the present King (or Emperor) of Korea being her second child. She never took any part in the political disturbances that have raged around her husband, but always displayed a truly benevolent mind in aid of those in distress.—*Hiogo News*.

There were ten candidates for the Shanghai Municipal Council this year, of whom the following nine were elected:—

Prentice, J.	181
Inglis, R.	176
Fearon, J. S.	175
Rohde, M.	167
Hewett, E. A.	166
Anderson, F.	165
Shellim, E.	161
Welch, J.	161
Stokes, A. P.	157

It will be seen with regret, says the *N. C. Daily News*, that the Rev. J. R. Hykes is the unsuccessful candidate at the Municipal election. Mr. Prentice is at the head, and Mr. A. P. Stokes, one of the new candidates, at the tail; but sometimes the tail wags dog.

A foreigner in the Chinese service was out shooting some miles this side of Chinkiang recently when he came across a fort on the Yangtze, the armament of which was being rapidly effected. Being interested in artillery, he was about to go inside when he was met by the request to keep out. He represented that he was in the Chinese service, but was met by the request for proofs of his statement. He then represented that he was an Englishman and as such a friend of China. "That's just the trouble," said the officer in charge of the fort; "the Germans tell us that you are our enemies, you want to take the whole of the Yangtze from us, and we've got to be particularly careful of you English." And soldiers were sent to watch the foreigner till he was out of the vicinity of that fort.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The local branch of the Navy League have sent a chart to the head office of what they consider should be the extended boundaries of Hongkong. The map was made by the Public Works Department and a copy of it is now on view in the Hongkong Public Library, Bank Buildings. The public should certainly see it. The present boundaries are marked in dark red and the suggested extensions are in light red. The acquisitions required by the Navy League include the whole of the numerous islets near Hongkong and the strip of mainland cut off by a line drawn from the river mouth north of Starling Inlet to Tyshan Bay. Accompanying the chart was a letter strongly expressing the hope that the recommendations would be urged upon the Government. We hope the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League will meet with every success in its efforts.

SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON'S DEPARTURE.

To-day the colony will say farewell to Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, who will carry with him the best wishes of all sections of the community. His Excellency has presided over the administration uninterruptedly longer than any previous Governor and has done so with such tact that although at various times political feeling has run high he has never suffered in personal popularity; but, on the contrary, the esteem and regard in which he is held, mainly on account of his social qualities, have steadily increased during the whole period of his residence. His unaffected geniality, the keen interest he has taken in the sports and pastimes of the community, his contributions to the intellectual life of the colony in the shape of lectures and addresses and the ready patronage he has afforded to all musical efforts, his encouragement of all benevolent movements, and the freedom of his social intercourse have all contributed to endear him to the community and to enhance the public respect for his high office, even at times when his official acts have not met with general approval. Politically it must be confessed that Sir WILLIAM has been less successful than socially. It is true that he arrived at a time of commercial depression and leaves us in the enjoyment of prosperity; but in matters of that kind the influence of a Governor, although not unimportant, is not predominant. It would probably not have been disagreeable to Sir WILLIAM himself if he could have relieved himself of his political functions altogether and have confined himself to the social side of his office. Although not uninterested in high questions of policy affecting national interests, such as the proposed extension of the Kowloon frontier, for routine work, the drudgery from which not even a Governor can altogether escape, he has been understood to entertain a profound distaste and to have left all matters as far as possible to his subordinates, contenting himself with minuting the representations or recommendations of heads of departments with the stereotyped formula "I agree." He has certainly been no lover of political controversy, as is shown by the infrequency and brevity of the Legislative Council meetings under his administration. Had he relied less unreservedly on the heads of departments and taken more trouble to study questions for himself some of the difficulties he has encountered might have proved in the long run less embarrassing and he might have been spared the unpleasantness—if he felt it as such—of having his decisions overruled on appeal to the Secretary of State.

When Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON arrived the military contribution question was under agitation, and the relations between the Government and the unofficial members of the Legislative Council were strained also on the salaries question. The former question was subsequently settled on the basis of a fixed contribution of 17½ per cent. of the colony's revenue instead of a stated sum in sterling which constituted a burden on the colony varying with the rate of exchange; but unfortunately when the settlement was under consideration His Excellency neglected to champion the colony's claim for a rebate in respect of municipal revenue and did not do so until after the decision had been arrived at and formulated. In connection with the salaries question a committee to enquire into the possibility of retrenchment was asked for by the unofficial members of Council; but was at first refused. After reference to the Secretary of State the request was granted,

but then again difficulties arose as to the constitution of the committee, and it was not until a further reference to the Secretary of State that the committee was finally appointed. In 1893 a sterling loan was raised, which involved the colony in a heavy loss by reason of the fall in exchange. In the same year the defalcations in the Treasury were brought to light, and the last year of His Excellency's administration has seen the disclosure of a system of bribery in the Police Force and other departments of the Government which, shook public confidence in the Service.

In 1894 the colony was afflicted with a visitation of the plague, which was followed by the memorable Sanitary Board controversy. Although the colony had been allowed to fall into such a lamentably insanitary condition during the long period of exclusively official control and the Sanitary Board, still in its infancy, bid fair to effect a reformation, the officials said in effect "Sweep away the Sanitary Board, "your Excellency, and leave everything to us," and His Excellency said "I agree," or words to that effect. The public, however, did not agree, and the result was that the Secretary of State directed that the matter was to be left over until the arrival of Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON's successor. If His Excellency made a serious mistake in regard to the Sanitary Board, however, too much praise cannot be accorded to him for the firmness he displayed in connection with the coolie strike which occurred in 1895.

This was not a strike arising out of any dispute between capital and labour, but was in the nature of a rebellion against the Government, the coolies ceasing work in the hope of coercing the Government to withdraw certain regulations made, after the visitation of the plague, for the prevention of overcrowding. His Excellency, however, declined to be coerced, and the determined attitude he assumed was the more commendable inasmuch as certain leading members of the community evinced a disposition to give way and thereby encouraged the strikers and increased the difficulties of the Government. Another matter for which His Excellency must be commended is the effective manner in which he dealt with the slight placed upon British rule by a certain section of the Chinese population—a small section we believe—when the Mandarin of Kowloon city was invited to come across to the colony and play the leading part in the ceremony of opening the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. On the other side of the account we have the recently decided light dues question. On appeal to the Secretary of State a decision in accordance with public feeling on the subject, and in opposition to the view espoused by the Governor, was arrived at.

It has fallen to the lot of Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON to represent Her Majesty in Hongkong in two memorable functions, namely, the unveiling of the Queen's Statue, and subsequently the celebration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. On the last named occasion His Excellency had the gratification of receiving the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, an honour which we trust he may be spared to wear for very many years.

It is a little unfortunate that in connection with His Excellency's departure a discordant note should be introduced into the farewells, but it cannot be ignored that amongst the British community some feeling of irritation has been caused by his election to travel under a foreign flag. Mr. G. JAMIESON, the Consul-General at

Shanghai, who is supposed to have received also the appointment of Commercial Attaché, made the same election on returning from leave the other day. We presume that Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON and Mr. JAMIESON, like the majority of Britishers, are free traders, and in the matter of travel as well as in the purchase of commodities think they are entitled to buy and pay for what suits them best. Whether in such matters British officials are called upon to consider national sentiment, as we believe the officials of other Powers have to do, is a question that under our more liberal system must be left to their own decision, though it is understood that in the case of Governors a very liberal allowance for travelling expenses is made, which of course comes out of the pockets of the British taxpayer. Whatever view may be entertained on this point, however, we are sure the community will heartily join in wishing Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON many years of robust health in which to enjoy his retirement.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

In the recent currency debate in the Singapore Chamber of Commerce no motion was brought forward for the retention of the silver standard pure and simple; the division was upon the question of whether the Government should be asked to take steps to secure fixity of exchange on the basis of 2s. to the dollar, or whether the Government should simply be asked to institute an enquiry as to the desirability and feasibility of securing fixity of exchange and to secure expert assistance in the enquiry. Some of the gentlemen who spoke in favour of the amendment evidently favour the retention of silver, but apparently they felt their side was too weak to carry a declaration in favour of the white metal and they therefore brought forward the amendment in favour of further inquiry as a temporising measure and for the purpose of securing delay. In the result the amendment was defeated and the Chamber decided by a majority of seventeen to fourteen to recommend to the Government a scheme for securing fixity of exchange on the basis of a two-shilling dollar. It may be noticed that in the division the representatives of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China voted for the amendment, while the representative of the Mercantile Bank of India voted for the original resolution.

In the debate there was a good deal of beating about the bush. Some time ago a sub-committee of the Chamber appointed for the purpose submitted a tentative scheme by which it was supposed the conversion of the standard might be effected. The opposition confined themselves to a great extent to picking holes in this report and dwelling on the difficulties of conversion. The existence of difficulties must be admitted, and it may perhaps also be admitted that the report of the sub-committee did not wholly solve them. It is patent, however, that the difficulties are capable of solution, as conversion schemes have been carried into effect in half-a-dozen countries within recent years, and although each special case may present features peculiar to itself there is no doubt that what has been done elsewhere can be equally well done in the Straits. The idea of calling in experts to decide as to the desirability and feasibility of securing fixity of exchange is therefore not one to be commended. If the Government decides to act upon the recommendation to

adopt the gold standard the assistance of experts will have to be invoked to arrange the scheme by which effect is to be given to the recommendation; but the colony itself must be considered the best judge of the standard that will most effectually meet its requirements. On the abstract question of the relative advantages of gold and silver, experts might be called on each side by the score with the sole result of making confusion worse confounded, for the two schools have no common starting point and are as radically divided on first principles as the allopathists and homeopaths.

The strongest point in the case for the adoption of a gold standard in Singapore seems to be that the bulk of the colony's business is with gold using countries. In 1896 the imports to and exports from silver using countries amounted to seventy-two million dollars, while the trade with gold countries amounted to 195 million dollars. And of the exports to silver using countries a large proportion is composed of goods originating in gold countries, for which exchange has to be settled at some point, and it was urged with considerable force that it would make no difference to that portion of the trade whether exchange was settled at one point or another. The same consideration presents itself with regard to the trade of Hongkong. Practically the whole of the foreign trade of China, with which the trade of this colony is bound up, is now conducted on a sterling basis, exchange being fixed when contracts for the sale of imports are entered into, while dealings in exports are also governed by the course of exchange. If the Straits ultimately decide to go on a gold basis, therefore, the result of the experiment will be watched with much interest in this colony. Whether the currency of a country be gold, silver, or bimetallic the price of commodities must in the long run be determined by the immutable law of supply and demand, but the more stable the currency the sounder the basis it affords for trade. Silver, by reason of its demonetisation by one country after another, has to a great extent lost its character of stability, and the time seems to have arrived when the expediency of this colony adopting gold as its standard might be taken into serious consideration.

The following extract from the speech made by Mr. T. E. EARLE at Singapore is interesting. The speaker, we should mention, was arguing in support of the amendment and combatting the view that the fall in silver had worked hardship to the residents of the Straits. "In the case of rice," he said, "the sub-Committee ignore the effect of the Indian Famine on prices, and attribute everything to exchange. Very well, let us adopt their view, exchange and only exchange can affect prices; but I will briefly put a few figures before the meeting and ask the sub-Committee to explain them. Now mark these facts:—

Rice in 1894 touched \$115
and in 1897 \$170
an advance of, say, 55 per cent.
Exchange was 2/3 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1/9 $\frac{1}{2}$ in 1894
and 1897 respectively; this shews
a drop of 25 per cent.

"Here you have an advance of 55 per cent. of which only 25 per cent. is Exchange; 30 per cent. remains unaccounted for, and I will suggest an explanation."

Wheat in October, 1894 was 17/6.

1897. 32/10

"an advance of 85 per cent. in a gold article in a gold country, as against 55 per cent.,

"in rice, of which 25 per cent. was in exchange. Draw your own conclusions, but I challenge the sub-Committee to explain these two opposite movements: an advance in gold prices coincident with a decline in exchange, and to show that the influences at work have received consideration in their report." This seems rather a strong argument, standing alone, and it was not specially replied to by any of the speakers on the other side. In reality, however, it amounts to little more than a curiosity of market movements, the probable explanation being that wheat was in proportionately smaller supply than rice during the last mentioned year. However that may be, gold is certainly not losing its purchasing power as regards commodities in general, whereas silver appears to be doing so, even in China, one of the last of the great silver using countries. On this point the enquiry recently instituted by the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society as to the purchasing power of silver and cash ought to prove instructive and it is to be hoped the result of the enquiry may be made public at as early a date as possible.

THE EUROPEAN PROPERTY MARKET IN HONGKONG.

At the meeting of the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., held on Friday last, reference was made by Mr. C. S. SHARP to the prospects of property in Hongkong. "Personally," said Mr. SHARP, "I think property in Hongkong has a bright future before it. The tendency seems to be ever onwards, and judging by the signs around us the demand for houses, the marked activity, more especially of late, in developing and building going on every hand, we appear to have arrived at the commencement of an era of renewed progress and prosperity." Old residents will no doubt be inclined to weigh these remarks in the light of past experience. Since the establishment of the colony "booms" and depressions in the property market have succeeded each other with almost unfailing regularity; there has seldom been any long period of stability. The population increases until the demand for house accommodation exceeds the supply; when that point is reached great activity in building sets in and continues until the supply exceeds the demand; then houses stand empty, rents in the less favoured localities fall sometimes to merely nominal figures, and building is discontinued until the demand again overtakes the supply. Such has been the experience of the past and doubtless it will be the experience to some extent of the future, though it may be hoped that profiting by past lessons builders will be somewhat more cautious and the fluctuations be consequently less violent. As Mr. SHARP says, the tendency of the colony is ever onwards, but the advance is not made by a continuous and uninterrupted series of leaps and bounds. Directing our attention, however, more particularly to European residences, there is at present taking place a change in the conditions of the colony which leads us to believe that there is not much danger of building being overdone in that direction for a long period to come. The fact is that Europeans are being crowded out of what were formerly their favourite residential areas. The movement commenced a good many years ago, but has latterly become greatly accelerated, and it seems probable that within a few years all the terrace houses between Caine Road and

Robinson Road will be occupied by Chinese and that the detached houses in that locality will either be replaced by terraces similarly occupied or will be taken up as they stand by wealthy Chinese. We have a European District Reservation Ordinance which prohibits the erection of Chinese houses within a certain defined area, including the district above mentioned, but it does not prohibit the Chinese occupation of European houses. And the Chinese are developing a taste for European houses and are establishing their families in the colony in rapidly increasing numbers. The Europeans are consequently being crowded out of the district into which the well-to-do Chinese are pressing, namely, that lying between Robinson Road and the Caine Road, not to speak of the still lower levels. They must therefore spread out eastward and westward; but persons in search of houses at the present time find it almost impossible to satisfy their requirements in any direction; and there does not seem much probability of the building operations now in progress or in contemplation being able to do much more than keep pace with the demand, even assuming the progress of the colony to continue only at a normal rate. But with an increase in the number of manufacturing industries in the place, the growth of trade, and our prospective connection with the interior of China by rail, there must take place also an increase in the population both native and foreign, greater possibly than any that has taken place in the past. How long the establishment of railway communication may be delayed it is impossible to say, and it would be imprudent for speculators to build extravagant schemes upon its prospect, but it is an event which it is the duty of the Government to foresee and provide for in regulating the growth and development of the city and its suburbs. In the recent discussion on the location of the Post Office it was suggested that in the course of ten years all the European firms would have their offices on the Praya Reclamation east of Pedder's Wharf. But by that time the number of firms may be too large to be accommodated within that circumscribed area. However that may be there must inevitably be a large increase in the European population, for which house accommodation must be provided, and the Chinese demand for houses in the European residential district is an important factor to be reckoned with in the solution of the problem.

THE BELILIOS REFORMATORY.

What His Excellency the GOVERNOR declared would be his last public act before leaving Hongkong was performed on Saturday morning, and was in its way a notable event. Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON laid the foundation stone of a new Reformatory at Causeway Bay, which he announced was to be called the Belilos Reformatory after the donor of the building, the Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G. The juvenile offenders in this colony have hitherto, if not considered hardened enough to be sent to Victoria Gaol, been handed over to the Fathers of the Italian Mission, who have conducted an institution of this character at West Point, and they have received a small grant from Government for the purpose. The boys there have been trained up to bootmaking and some other useful trades, but the space was limited and we believe some escapes have lately been effected from the building by young reprobates. At any rate the requirements appear to have outgrown the accommodation, and it seemed

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desirable to the Government or to Mr. BELLIOS or both that a separate building under direct Government control should be provided, and special steps taken to endeavour to reclaim youthful lawbreakers and set them on the path of reform. The Government have provided the site, a very suitable one, and Mr. BELLIOS has undertaken to erect the Reformatory, which is estimated to cost \$12,000. This is a very generous act and in keeping with Mr. BELLIOS's former contributions to the promotion of education. From his speech on Saturday we gather that the hon. gentleman considers that reformatories are educational institutions and that they exercise a civilising and reforming effect upon criminals of tender years. This is true of similar institutions in Great Britain, where they are the means not infrequently of turning young offenders from the career of crime upon which they had entered. It may, however, be doubted whether equally satisfactory results can be expected by the application of reformatory agencies to the Chinese mind. We fear that deterrent measures will, for years to come at any rate, be the most effective check upon crime in this colony, though we sincerely hope that Mr. BELLIOS's philanthropic effort may show good results in a short time. However that may be, the intention is most excellent, and we trust that the training given in the institution may be of such a character as will be best calculated to give effect to the benevolent aspirations of its founder.

While welcoming this addition to the educational or training institutions of the colony, we cannot forbear an expression of opinion that it was one which the Government should, of its own initiative, have provided. A reformatory is, after all, a sort of prison for juveniles and in the English Courts children who have committed offences are regularly sentenced to terms of imprisonment in reformatories. The same thing will of course happen here, and the Belilius Reformatory will be a gaol for juvenile criminals and administered by the Government. Such an institution should have been built out of the public funds, and private munificence should not have been invoked to provide it. In fact the establishment of a Reformatory was just as essentially a Government work as was the provision of a common gaol, and without wishing to cavil at a good deed or to look a gift horse in the mouth we could have wished that Mr. BELLIOS had been able to discover some better channel into which to have directed his liberality. No one will fail to appreciate the goodness of his intentions, or to sympathise with his belief in the elevating tendency of the institution for which he has provided a home; but the Government might surely have laid this burden on the Treasury, and suggested to Mr. BELLIOS some more satisfactory outlet for his benevolence. The provision of a school for the children of British subjects at Kowloon, or a reading room and library for the soldiers of the Garrison would, we imagine, have been even more calculated to enlist his interest as an educationist. However, the selection has now been made, the Belilius Reformatory at Causeway Bay will speedily become a solid fact in stone and brick, and we hope that it will prove a really useful and beneficent agent in the reclamation of Chinese youth from serious crime.

There were 24,500 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 252 were Europeans.

LI HUNG-CHANG ON GERMANY'S ACTION AT KIAOCHAU.

An interview with LI HUNG-CHANG on the subject of Germany's action at Kiaochau has been published by the *New York Herald*, in which the veteran statesman indulges in a good deal of sophistical humbug. That Germany's seizure of Kiaochau was a high-handed proceeding cannot be denied, but in dealing with a country like China high-handed procedure may sometimes be not only justifiable but necessary. "Outlaws," says Li, "exist in China, as in all countries. Neither treaties, laws, nor religion can entirely suppress crime anywhere in the world; though they condemn and punish criminals there are places in every country where lawlessness abounds, and to such places in Shantung the German missionaries determined to go, knowing that the inhabitants themselves were often victims of these bandits. Should China be distressed by having her shores invaded and her territory occupied because of occurrences which western countries would deal with by law and not war?" But it is because law is powerless in China to prevent such lamentable occurrences, or to adequately punish the perpetrators of outrages, that exceptional measures are in her case necessary. When China acts as a civilised Power she may claim to be treated as such, but until then she must be subject to coercion, however much she may chafe under it. Without pressure from outside, no attempt would be made to protect the lives and property of foreigners in the country or to punish those who attack them. Germany has administered a much needed and wholesome lesson, one which we believe will do more for the improvement of foreign intercourse with China and the advancement of China herself than anything that has occurred since the British occupation of Hongkong. We only regret that Great Britain did not take similar action after the Kucheng massacre.

Li says also that unfortunately China has not yet recovered from the effects of the late war and the country requires a period of peace to carry out the work of reform lately begun. What reform? There is certainly no reform visible in the administration of justice or the arrangements for the preservation of order. On the contrary, out only do anti-foreign outrages continue to occur with painful frequency, but the natives themselves live in a state of constant insecurity, the rivers being infested by pirates, while organised gangs of robbers commit their depredations on shore with but little interference from the authorities. Affairs are perhaps worse in this respect in the Kwangtung province than elsewhere, but they are bad everywhere. In what other direction shall we look for reform? Not in the financial department of the administration. The negotiations that have taken place with reference to the loan the country stands in need of have disclosed the invincible hostility of the rulers to any reform of the corrupt fiscal system under which the valuable resources of the country either remain undeveloped or run to waste. Reform is bound to come sooner or later, but it will have to be from without, for it is hopeless to expect it from within.

"Is it just," asks Li "to oppress us while we are struggling to emerge from the restraints of our ancient civilisation, while improvement and progress steadily continue?" The answer to the question is obvious. There is no struggle to emerge

from the restraints mentioned, improvement and progress do not continue, and the so-called oppression is just, because it may encourage China to amend her ways and aim at improvement and progress. A rod for the fool's back, says holy writ, and in the case of China there is every reason to believe chastisement will prove beneficial. "Our desire," Li says in conclusion, "is to preserve our territory intact and steadily improve it as a field open to all countries equally for the development of commerce." China desires to preserve her territory intact, no doubt, but as to desiring to improve it as a field open to all countries for the development of commerce, nothing would please the mandarins better than to be able to kick every foreigner out of the country to-morrow; or perhaps we should say to confine them to restricted areas at one or two ports, where they might be graciously permitted to conduct their trade under the control of the local authorities, for though the foreigner is personally distasteful to the Chinese neither the Government nor the people have ever been altogether insensible to the value of foreign trade.

CHINA'S MINERAL RESOURCES.

That the mineral resources of the Chinese Empire are very extensive is well known. Probably there are few minerals that cannot be found either in the eighteen provinces or in one or other of the great dependencies of Manchuria, Mongolia, and Thibet. The precious metals exist in several provinces in more or less abundance, and iron and coal abound in Hupeh, Chihli, the Two Kwang, and other provinces, while Yunnan and Szechuen possess valuable copper mines, which have been worked for centuries in the former province. Other minerals together with kerosine oil springs no doubt exist, and only need energy and perseverance in their working to greatly enrich the country. Unfortunately, however, the Chinese official has no interest in the development of this underground treasure except when, as has happened once or twice, a mine has been worked with foreign machinery and appliances. He has then regarded the enterprise as a milch cow to be milked at his convenience, and in the end has proved such a dead weight upon it as to effectually destroy all chances of its succeeding financially. The Taiyushan and Tamchow silver-lead mines were notable instances in point. The machinery imported was, to begin with, too costly and unsuitable, and the salaries paid to and squeezes imposed by officials retarded the progress and led to the ultimate abandonment of the mines. The Kelung coal mines, when Formosa was in the possession of China, were never properly worked, and after many years of development the Kaiping Collieries can produce little more than sufficient for the necessities of the Chihli Government. And now we learn that the Manganshan coal mines in Hupeh, opened at the instance of the Viceroy CHANG CHIH-TUNG to supply fuel for the ironworks at Han-yang, are a failure. Mr. GERVASE COOKE, M.I.M.E., who has been engaged in prospecting the mines of Hupeh for His Excellency the Viceroy, has been reporting on those at present worked, and he criticises the management of some very unfavourably. It was reported some months ago that the Manganshan mines had been on fire, but Mr. COOKE reports that, after inspecting them thoroughly, he could not find a trace of fire, although water had been allowed to

get into some of the levels. He added that one mine on which Tls. 600,000 was spent when started about four years ago under German management appears to be finished already. It would be far more satisfactory to the Chinese Government if they want to see the mineral resources of the country developed, to allow foreign capital to step in and do the work, paying them a royalty on the output and employing Chinese labour to work the mines. Native capital will not be forthcoming for such enterprises unless they are placed under foreign control. The concessions might be made to Companies composed partly of natives and partly of foreigners, the working and management to be under foreign direction. In that case Chinese would subscribe freely for the shares, and nothing would be heard of *feng shui*. No doubt, under the new dispensation which seems likely to dawn on China, such enterprises will be undertaken and successfully carried out. So long, however, as the sole management of the mines is conferred upon ignorant and often prejudiced Chinese little if any genuine progress can be looked for in the task of opening up the mineral resources of the Empire.

SUPREME COURT.

31st January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

MUSSO DI PERALTA AND OTHERS v. MUSSO.
This suit was brought by the sons of the late Domenico di Musso as his next-of-kin against his widow for a declaration that a certain document purporting to be a deed of gift of certain leasehold lands executed by the deceased in favour of the defendant should be declared null and void, and that the leaseholds so purported to be granted and conveyed should form part of the estate of the deceased, and for an account of the rents received by the defendant.

Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Bowley, of Mr. Dennys's office) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings), appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Robinson said it would appear from the pleadings that there were few, if any, questions of fact in dispute between the parties. The case really resolved itself into a pure question of law.

Mr. Francis agreed that no question of fact was in dispute.

Mr. Robinson then read the plaintiff's petition as follows:

1.—The plaintiffs are the sons and only legitimate children and the next-of-kin of Domenico Musso, deceased, late of Victoria, Hongkong, and are resident at Victoria aforesaid; the defendant is the widow of the said Domenico Musso, deceased, and resides at Victoria aforesaid.

2.—The said Domenico Musso was from about the year 1885 down to the time of his death on the 16th December, 1896, possessed of certain parcels of leasehold land at Victoria aforesaid respectively registered in the Land Office there as Marine Lot No. 188 and the remaining portion of Marine Lot No. 189 for the respective residues of two several terms of 999 years each from the 25th day of June, 1861, created by the Crown leases of the said lots respectively.

3.—By a certain document purporting to be a deed of gift dated the 28th of January, 1895, expressed to be made between the said Domenico Musso (now deceased) as assignor and donor and the defendant (by the description of Lucia Victoria Musso) as assignee, the said Domenico Musso purported in consideration of his love and affection for the defendant to assign and give absolutely to her, her executors, administrators, and assigns all his interest in the aforesaid two parcels of land to hold the same

unto the said defendant her executors, administrators, and assigns absolutely from thenceforth for the respective residues of the several terms of years in the last paragraph hereof mentioned. The plaintiffs crave leave to refer to the said document.

4.—The defendant was married to the aforesaid Domenico Musso within the Kingdom of Italy in or about the year 1872 and at the time when the aforesaid document purports to have been executed the defendant was the wife of the said Domenico Musso and was living with him.

5.—The said Domenico Musso never registered or caused to be registered any memorial of the aforesaid document in the Land Office at Victoria aforesaid, and the defendant never entered into possession of the aforesaid parcels of land or either of them during the lifetime of the said Domenico Musso.

6.—Since the death of the aforesaid Domenico Musso the defendant has entered into possession of the aforesaid two parcels of land and has received the rents and profits thereof on her own personal account.

7.—At the time of the marriage between the defendant and the said Domenico Musso and down to the date of the death of the said Domenico Musso the said Domenico Musso and the defendant were and always continued to be Italian subjects domiciled in Italy. By the law of Italy gifts *inter vivos* between husband and wife made during coverture are null and void.

8.—The said Domenico Musso died intestate with regard to the aforesaid two parcels of land and the plaintiffs are interested therein as next-of-kin of the said Domenico Musso by the law of Hongkong and as his legitimate heirs by the law of Italy.

The Plaintiffs pray:

1.—A declaration that the aforementioned deed is null and void and that the premises purported to be assigned thereby form part of the estate of the aforesaid Domenico Musso deceased.

2.—An account of the rents and profits of the said premises received by the defendant, a declaration that such rents and profits form part of the estate of the aforesaid Domenico Musso, deceased, and a decree that the defendant pay the same to the personal representative of the said Domenico Musso, deceased.

3.—Such further or other relief as to the Court may seem meet.

Defendant's answer was as follows:

1.—The defendant admits the statements in paragraph 1 of the petition to be true.

2.—The defendant admits the statements in paragraph 2 of the petition to be true, but alleges that from and after the 28th day of January, 1895, the said Domenico Musso stood possessed of the said parcels of leasehold land as trustee for the defendant and not otherwise.

3.—The defendant admits the statements in paragraph 3 of the petition to be true but the defendant further alleges that the said assignment and gift was made subject to the payment by the defendant of the Crown rents and to the performance and observance of all and singular the covenants, conditions, reservations, and agreements in and by the Crown leases of the said two parcels of land reserved and contained and that the defendant for herself, her heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns covenanted with the said Domenico Musso to pay the said rents and to observe and perform all the said covenants, conditions, and agreements and to keep the said Domenico Musso, his heirs, executors, and administrators indemnified against all actions, suits, expenses, and claims on account of the nonpayment of the said rents or the breach or non-observance or non-performance of the said covenants and conditions or any of them; and the defendant further alleges that the said Domenico Musso in and by the said deed for himself, his heirs, executors, and administrators covenanted with the defendant that he had full power to give and assign to her the said two parcels of land and premises free from encumbrances and that she should peaceably and quietly possess and enjoy the same without lawful let, suit, eviction, claim, or demand from him or from any person lawfully or equitably claiming by or through him, and further that

he, his executors and administrators, and every other person or persons lawfully or equitably claiming through, under, or in trust for him or them would at all times thereafter execute and do all such assurances and acts for further or better assuring all or any of the premises to the defendant, her executors, administrators, and assigns as should be reasonably required by her or them. And the defendant craves leave to refer to the said deed in proof thereof.

4.—The defendant admits the statements in paragraph 4 of the petition to be true.

5.—The defendant admits the statements in paragraph 5 of the petition to be true but in reply says: that the said Domenico Musso signed the memorial for the registration of the said deed on or about the said 28th day of January, 1895, and the said memorial was duly lodged in the Land Registry and duly registered on or about the 21st day of December, 1896, by the plaintiff Vincenzo Pietro Musso di Peralta. In further reply to the said paragraph the defendant says that the said Domenico Musso from and after the said 28th January, 1895, collected and received the rents of the said two parcels of ground and premises as trustee for the defendant.

6.—The defendant admits the statements in the sixth paragraph of the petition to be true.

7.—The defendant admits the statements in the seventh paragraph of the petition contained to be true but denies that the provisions of the Italian law apply to or govern a transfer, by gift or otherwise, of leasehold properties in Hongkong made by deed executed in Hongkong.

8.—The defendant admits that as regards his leasehold property in Hongkong the said Domenico Musso died intestate, and that the plaintiffs are interested therein as his next-of-kin, but denies that the said two parcels of ground and premises forming the subject matter of this suit, were at the date of his death the property of the said Domenico Musso and that the plaintiffs have any interest therein or claim thereto either under English law or by the law of Italy.

The following replication was filed by the plaintiffs in reply to defendant's answer:

1.—As to the 2nd and 5th paragraphs of the answer that they join issue thereon as to so much of the said paragraphs as alleges that from and after the 28th January, 1895, Domenico Musso stood possessed of the therein referred to premises and collected and received the rents thereof as trustee for the defendant.

2.—As to the 3rd paragraph of the answer they admit the allegations therein contained to be true, but say that the defendant did not during the lifetime of the deceased pay the Crown rents or perform or observe the covenants, conditions, reservations, or agreements therein referred to.

3.—As to the 5th paragraph they admit so much thereof as refers to the memorial therein referred to.

4.—As to the 7th paragraph they join issue thereon as to so much thereof as denies that the provisions of Italian law apply to or govern the attempted transfer by gift *inter vivos* of the leasehold premises known as Marine Lot 188 and remaining portion of Marine Lot 189 in Hongkong by deed executed in Hongkong by Domenico Musso in favour of the defendant.

5.—As to the 8th paragraph of the answer the plaintiffs join issue thereon as to so much as alleges that the plaintiffs have no interest in the said lots either under English or Italian law.

Mr. Robinson then addressed the Court on the questions of law arising upon the pleadings. He said the questions for the decision of the Court were (1) whether the law of Italy had any application to the parties in respect of the property comprised in the deed of gift so as to render the deed null and void, and (2), Assuming that the law of Italy was not applicable, was the effect of the deed to make the late Domenico Musso a Trustee of the property for his wife? The first was a question of international law as administered by the English Courts. The general rule was that the law of the place in which immovable property was situated (*le loci rei situs*) governed the formalities of transfers of such property, but counsel argued that the question of status or capacity to give or acquire property must be dealt with

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according to the personal law of their domicile. The late D. Musso and his wife were both Italians domiciled in Italy, and it was admitted that by Italian law husband and wife were incapable of giving to, or acquiring property from, each other. In support of his contention counsel cited Westlake on Private International Law (1880) chapter 3, and two cases reported in the "Journal de Droit International Prince," 1895. (Nos. 1 and 2, pp. 105 and 171). As to the second question, under the law of Hongkong the deed at law was invalid as a transfer of property, because husband and wife being regarded as one person the husband could not contract with or convey property to his wife without the intervention of a trustee. (Lush on the law of husband and wife, Phillips v. Barnet, L. R. 1, Q. B. D. p. 436). There were no words in this deed sufficient to create a separate estate for the wife. The question remained whether the deed, although inscriptive as a gift, amounted to a declaration of trust and constituted the husband a trustee of the property for his wife. Counsel contended that the rule that "there was no equity to perfect an imperfect gift" governed this case and cited Mibroy v. Lord, 4. De Gex, Fisher and Jones p. 264; Warrener v. Rogers, L.R. 16, Equity 340; Richards v. Delbridge, L.R. 18, Equity 11; Hartley v. Nicholson, L.R. 19, Equity 242. Mr. Robinson said the next question was whether there was any exception to the rule and cited Moore v. Moore, L.R., 18 Equity, 474, and Breton v. Wollnen, L.R., 17 Chancery, 416, which laid down that an imperfect gift by husband to wife would not be construed as a declaration of trust.

The Court then adjourned until 11 a.m. to-day.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on 28th January at the offices. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Officer) presided, and there were also present Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE INSANITARY AREA AT SHAUKIWAN.

An insanitary area at Shaukiwan and the resumption of the uninhabitable dwellings thereon again formed the subject of discussion. The matter first came before the Board about two months ago in the form of a petition from the inhabitants of Shaukiwan hillside who were holders of squatters' licenses, in which they asked for an officer to be sent to show them how drainage work which they had been called upon to do should be carried out. The Board then recommended the resumption of the insanitary area, but that it should be so carried out that the people would not have to quit their dwellings till the end of February next. The recommendation was forwarded to the Director of Public Works for his opinion. He wrote stating that he had inspected every one of the houses. To resume the property would cost \$1,000 to \$1,500. Many of the houses were solidly built of stone with tiled roofs and hard floors. He could not say he found them insanitary: indeed many of them were clean and tidy and as good as the Chinese huts to be found in any part of the colony. If the occupants were all to be evicted and the buildings demolished he would ask to be informed where the funds were to come from. Several of the tenants were now willing to concrete their floors and improve their drains. He made recommendations in regard to seven houses, which he thought should be removed. If his recommendations were approved a sum of \$110 would be required before the occupants of the houses were noticed to turn out, and a further sum of \$50 to clear and level the sites and improve the drainage.

These remarks of the Director of Public Works were circulated to members and the following minutes were appended:

Mr. N. J. EDE.—I think it is desirable to carry out the original proposal of the Board (16th November, 1897) after Chinese New Year.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—The premises referred to all have pervious earth

floors partly covered with loose stones and are entirely unprovided with drains, and I do not therefore see any reason to amend the advice which I tendered to the Board in my minute of October 6th, 1897, namely, that all these premises are, in their present condition, insanitary and unfit for human habitation. The hon. Director of Public Works proposes the immediate demolition of seven of the twenty-eight houses, and states that the owners of the remaining twenty-one houses are now willing to concrete the floors and provide drains. This matter was gone into most carefully and the Board was advised by its surveyor that the premises were so badly constructed and lit and so dilapidated that the necessary drainage works alone would cost more than the houses are worth, while the owners themselves averred, as recently as October last, that they had not the necessary means to carry out the improvements. It may be true that there are, as the Director of Public Works states, many "Chinese huts" in a like condition in the outlying villages of the colony, and the reason why special attention has been directed to these at Shaukiwan is that the village is rapidly growing in importance (while many of the others are retreating), and the Government has recently expended a considerable sum of money in providing sewers for the proper drainage of these houses and in providing an adequate supply of pure water for the village. The question of the cost of the scheme of resumption and of the proper laying out of the site is one which concerns the Government alone, and it is for it to decide whether any such scheme, however desirable on sanitary grounds, is within the range of the colony's finances or not, but in any case the Sanitary Board—both as the adviser and as the executive of the Government on all sanitary matters—cannot surely do otherwise than insist either upon the whole of these insanitary premises being rendered habitable or upon their being vacated at an early date.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.—It seems unfortunate that there seems to be not only some difference of opinion between the Medical Officer of Health and myself on this question, but a conflict of evidence. I also regret that before the question came up for consideration first I was unable from press of business to inspect the place. I still maintain that several of the houses have floors partly of stone blocks, some are partly tiled, and others are of hard beaten earth or a species of lime concrete; indeed they compare favourably with the floors of large shops in the main street of Shaukiwan, which are of earth pure and simple. As to drainage, the huts being on the side of a steep rocky hill, all water used for cooking, washing, or other purposes flows rapidly away to the harbour. The huts are described as being "unfit for human habitation," but this is merely a commonly used expression wanting in definitiveness. The fact remains that these huts have for very many years been inhabited by a not unhealthy looking set of tenants, who, I am informed, have been singularly free from disease. The owners and occupiers of the houses are now willing to sign the accompanying paper. There is no vote of the Legislative Council to be expended in compensating the owners of land resumed, and to obtain such a vote now it would be necessary to bring the matter before the Council and plead urgent necessity for special provision. I at least could not conscientiously support such a plea. [The paper referred to was a guarantee of tenants to concrete the floors of their houses within two months, failing which they would submit to the demolition of the houses by the Government without compensation.]

The SECRETARY having read these minutes a discussion ensued.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said he would like to say a few words about the supposed conflict of evidence. Personally he failed to see that there was any conflict. The Director of Public Works said the floors were composed partly of stone blocks, partly of tiles, and partly of earth, while he (Dr. Clark) had said the floors were composed partly of earth and partly of loose stones, which was just about the same thing. He visited the houses in Shaukiwan on Wednesday in company with the President and the Surveyor and he found that an ordinary rusty knife would penetrate the earth

floors. If they were permeable to a blade they were permeable to water, that is, they were pervious. In regard to what the Director of Public Works had written that the words "unfit for human habitation" were a commonly used expression without definite meaning he would like to point out that that was the expression used in the Imperial Public Health Act of 1875, the Housing of the Working Classes Act of 1882, and the local Public Health Ordinance, and as that expression was recognized by lawyers as sufficiently definite for legal purposes it was surely quite sufficient to adequately describe the condition of the houses in Shaukiwan. The Director of Public Works had also said he was informed that the tenants had been free from disease. As a matter of fact the death rate of Shaukiwan in 1896 was 50 per cent. higher than the death rate of the City of Victoria, overcrowded as it was. Last year, partly owing no doubt to the expenditure by the Government upon the sewerage of the village and the provision of an adequate water supply, the death rate was reduced to only 16 per cent. higher than the rate for the City of Victoria. But, yet, here was a small isolated village of some few thousand inhabitants—not in the ordinary sense of the term overcrowded—built partly upon the hill side and the death rate was 50 per cent. in 1896 and 16 per cent. in 1897 higher than in the City of Victoria, which, as was well known, was in an insanitary condition and to some extent overcrowded. The question of resumption of the land was one which concerned the Government, but he thought he was justified in saying that these huts were nearly all erected during the past ten or twelve years in contravention of the Building Ordinances. In other words, if the Government must pay for the resumption they will only be paying for the errors of the past, as the buildings were erected notwithstanding an Ordinance which prohibited their erection as they now stood. Even though the cost were \$1,100 or \$1,500 the Government would be perfectly justified in resuming the buildings. He was somewhat surprised to learn that in 1894 the Government had granted leases to these squatters extending to 999 years. He was surprised because in 1894 the buildings must have been in about the same condition as they were now. The best thing to do, especially as the importance of the village was increasing and as the Government had spent a large sum of money on various improvements, was undoubtedly to resume the land providing the expenditure was a reasonable one. He would also like to say, in reference to the minute of the Director of Public Works written as head of the Public Works Department that "he did not think the houses were in an insanitary condition," that that was surely a question for the Sanitary Board and its sanitary advisers to consider. As the Board had, however, not expressed any definite opinion upon the question of the sanitation of these buildings, having at the previous meeting been content to accept the opinion of its professional advisers thereon, he moved that the Colonial Secretary be informed that the Board were of opinion that the domestic dwellings situated on the lots in question were in their present condition unfit for habitation.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said he had very little to say on the subject. The houses did not seem to him to be insanitary, as there was an absence of smells and a man who was acquainted with the village told him there had been no cases of plague and that the people were not unhealthy. That might be right or wrong, but of course Dr. Clark's opinion was more valuable than his on that point. The fact remained that the people had the houses on a long lease, and he did not think the matter was sufficiently urgent to ask the Government to vote compensation to the people. The land could not be laid out again for building purposes; indeed, the houses ought never to have been built, and if the people were turned out the houses would be demolished and no others built there. He was of opinion that they should be allowed to concrete their floors as they had agreed upon, and that the matter should then be dropped.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said the remark made by the Director of Public Works that the houses ought never to have been built was a valuable one. The Board ought to seize this opportunity to do away with

the houses that ought never to have been built. Therefore he seconded the resolution of the Medical Officer of Health.

The PRESIDENT said he had inspected the houses with Dr. Clark and the Secretary and he certainly thought the houses were unfit for human habitation. He did not think they were good enough for pig-sties. In wet weather they must be unfit for human habitation in every sense, as the roofs were loosely tiled. The weather was dry now and consequently the floors did not look so bad, but any sullage and drainage to be got rid of had to be thrown on the hill side and probably on to the roofs of houses below, which were in a leaky condition.

Mr. EDE supported the resolution.

The resolution was carried, only the Director of Public Works voting against it.

WATER CARRIAGE VERSUS HAND CARRIAGE.

On an application for permission to erect a water closet being read.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said he had considered the question of the introduction of water closets into Hongkong and he found that Mr. Chadwick had in 1890 reported that the water carriage system in Hongkong was superior to any other. He thought the opinion of such an authority on the subject as Mr. Chadwick was very important. He also found that the Committee which was appointed to investigate the subject advised against the introduction of the system, one of the reasons being that the sewage would silt up in the harbour. He was not aware what evidence was given before the Committee, but a very full and able report by Mr. Cooper seemed to be entirely at variance with the opinion expressed by the Committee. He (the Director of Public Works) therefore thought that the application should be allowed.

The PRESIDENT said he was entirely in favour of Mr. Ormsby's views. Water closets were much more sanitary than the hand carriage system at present in vogue, but as the special Committee had reported against the general introduction of water closets and as the Board had refused applications before he could not see how they could grant this one. It would be better perhaps to refer the matter to a sub-Committee for an opinion as to whether water closets should be introduced.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that one of the objections to water closets was that there was not sufficient water. In 1897 the rainfall was just over 100 inches, or about 11 inches above the average of the previous fourteen years. That was not a very good year to take, but he would like to point out that the depth of water in Tytam reservoir on the 1st January, 1896, was 34 feet below the spill; in 1897 the depth was 6 feet below spill; and in 1898 it was 3 feet below the spill. At Pokfulam reservoir the depth of water was 12 feet below the spill on the 1st January, 1896, 42 feet below the in 1897, and 10 feet above in 1898. There had been an enormous increase of the store of water since Mr. Chadwick mentioned this particular objection, and he did not think that any such objection could be taken now.

Mr. EDE entirely opposed the water carriage system. With the present system the sewage was taken right out of the colony, so there was no possibility of it injuring the colony in any way. The method was perhaps not quite so pleasant as the water carriage system, but in his opinion it was far better in the interests of health to get the sewage carried right away than to have it anywhere near the colony. On that ground he entirely opposed the water carriage system.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE agreed with Mr. Ede. If the hand carriage system was a very insanitary one he thought the town would not be so healthy as it was. They heard a great deal about the stinks of Hongkong, but it was the healthiest town he had ever lived in. It was far more healthy than his native city—the city of Limerick. (Laughter.) He begged to suggest that the question of the removal from Chinese tenements be renewed. Mr. Ede had said that the night soil was carried right away from the colony. He was afraid the real objection was that the night soil was not removed at once. There was not the slightest doubt in his mind that the present system of removal was so imperfectly carried out that it must constitute a

danger. The Board had made certain proposals, but they were not acted upon, and he thought the subject might be taken up again.

The PRESIDENT said that anyone who passed along the main road in the early hours of the morning knew there was an offensive smell which must injure the public health to some extent.

A resolution that the application be granted was then put.

The Director of Public Works and the President voted in favour of the motion and Mr. Ede, the Medical Officer of Health, and the Captain Superintendent of Police voted against it.

The resolution was therefore lost.

OUTBREAK OF SMALLPOX.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH reported that there had been thirty seven cases of smallpox during the current month in the centre of the city. Of these half a dozen had been imported from Wanchai. He was in favour of free vaccination for the Chinese community and of a warning being issued to the European community so that they could take steps to protect themselves from the disease if introduced by their servants.

The PRESIDENT thought it was the duty of the Board to open two free vaccination stations so that the Chinese might attend. One station might be in No. 5 health district and the other in Wanchai.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said that last year the Chinese did not take kindly to vaccination. A public vaccinator went from house to house and it was found that when he went in the front door the occupants went out by the back.

In reply to the President the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said 1,100 Chinese were vaccinated in three weeks last year.

Mr. EDE seconded the President's motion, which was carried unanimously.

It was also resolved to open a free station at the Government Civil Hospital for non-Chinese.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 15th January the death rate per thousand per annum was 22.3, as compared with 11.7 for the corresponding period of last year. For the week ended 22nd January the rate was 14.7, as against 17.4 for the corresponding period of last year.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

A report was read from the Medical Officer of Health and the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, who were appointed a Select Committee under the provisions of Ordinance 11 of 1895, stating that four cattle imported from Canton by local butchers on Thursday last were upon landing found to be suffering from foot and mouth disease. The cattle were at once destroyed and buried.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until Thursday week.

THE DEPARTURE OF HIS EXCELLENCE THE GOVERNOR.

PRESENTATION OF AN ADDRESS BY THE CIVIL SERVICE.

On Monday, 31st Jan., His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., was presented with an address by the members of the Hongkong Civil Service. The presentation took place in the drawing room of Government House and was made by Sir John Carrington, L.L.D., C.M.G. (Chief Justice).

There were also present the following members of the Civil Service:—Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Colonial Secretary), Mr. A. G. Wise (Puisne Judge), Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), Hon. H. E. Wodehouse (Police Magistrate), Hon. R. Murray Rumsey (Harbour Master), Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police), Hon. T. Sercombe Smith (Colonial Treasurer), Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. A. M. Thomson (Postmaster-General), Mr. J. G. T. Buckle (Clerk of Councils), Dr. Atkinson, Mr. A. W. Brown, Mr. A. Seth, Mr. C. Ford, Mr. H. C. Nicolle, Mr. W. Chatham, Dr. Bateson Wright, Mr. G. S. Northcote, Mr. C. Vivian Ladds, Mr. W. J. Trotter, Mr. J. R. Crook, and Mr. E. Bowdler.

Sir JOHN CARRINGTON—Your Excellency, with your leave I will read to you the address

which the members of the Hongkong Civil Service desire to present to your Excellency on your departure from the colony.

To His Excellency SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON, G.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

May it please Your Excellency:—

On the eve of your departure from this colony, which you have successfully governed for the long and practically uninterrupted period of six years, we, the members of the Hongkong Civil Service, desire to convey to you a brief but sincere expression of our appreciation of the kindly relations which have always existed between Your Excellency and ourselves, and of our regret at your departure.

In the Far East you have thoroughly sustained the character for justice, geniality, and hospitality which you gained during your career in the West Indies.

The members of the Service have always found you considerate, and desirous of giving effect to their recommendations, so far as these seemed to you advisable and practicable.

To all members of the Service, of whatever creed or nationality, you have, during the term of your administration, accorded just and impartial treatment, and have shown yourself anxious to promote their welfare. In your relations with us, in duty and pleasure, business and pastime, Your Excellency has consistently taken as the rule of your action the sympathetic motto—*Homo sum, humani nihil a me alienum puto.*

It only remains for us to offer you our respectful congratulations on the long and distinguished career of forty-four years, which you have just completed in the service of Her Majesty, and also on the high honour which has recently been conferred upon you.

Begging that you will accept our most cordial wishes for your future prosperity and happiness, and with renewed expressions of regard and high esteem,

We subscribe ourselves,
Your Excellency's
Most obedient humble Servants,
(Here follow the signatures)

After reading the address Sir JOHN CARRINGTON said—Perhaps Your Excellency will let me add a few remarks, as spoken words are warmer possibly than written words. We part from you now with much regret, and, as we have said in the address, with varied feelings—feelings of admiration, of regard, and of high esteem. Of admiration, because we, as members of the Civil Service ourselves, cannot but think that Your Excellency has achieved signal success in rising from the lowest grades of the Civil Service to so high and distinguished a position as that which you now hold. Of respect, because we have been serving under you in this colony and have therefore had opportunities of seeing the successful and impartial way in which you have carried on the affairs of this colony and kept it on the road to prosperity; and of regard, because we feel, as is indicated in the address, that you have been to us a kind and considerate and, indeed, an indulgent master. For all these things we are grateful to you, and we beg to assure you, Sir, that we shall always remember your kindness, and we hope you will secure long life and happiness wherever your lot may be cast. (Applause.)

His EXCELLENCE the GOVERNOR, in accepting the address, said—Sir John Carrington, Mr. Lockhart, and members of the Hongkong Civil Service, I thank you most sincerely for the address which you have just presented to me. I can assure you that I shall always recollect with pleasure the sympathetic relations which have existed between the Service and myself during the past six years. What you are so kind as to term my successful government of this colony is in a great measure due to the assistance that I have received from the several Departments of the Service as well as to the advice I have been given by the official members of Council—the Heads of those Departments. I have treated you, gentlemen, as I would have wished myself to have been treated had I been in your position, and in return you have naturally rendered to me the most efficient service you could. Without exception I have found you all willing and loyal public servants and whilst thanking you

[February 2, 1898]

for your cordial wishes, which I most heartily reciprocate, I would express a hope that a successful and honorable career is in store for one and all of you. I need hardly add that if I can assist any of you towards that end I shall have much pleasure in doing so. (Applause.) I thank you for the kindly words you have made, and I can assure you that I shall value them most highly. I shall always recollect the Service of Hongkong as a loyal and patriotic one. (Applause.)

Wine was then served and in response to Sir John Carrington the gentlemen present gave three hearty cheers and the "tiger" for His Excellency the Governor.

A photographic group was then taken in front of Government House.

THE SCOTCH CONCERT.

A Scotch concert arranged by the St. Andrew's Society, in commemoration of the birth of Robert Burns, was given in St. George's Hall on Tuesday evening, 25th Jan. There was a large and enthusiastic audience, and the concert was in every respect a success. The programme included five part songs arranged for male voices by Mr. A. G. Ward, namely, "Hail to the Chief," "Ye Banks and Braes," "Scots wha hae," "Duncan Gray," and "Auld Lang Syne." The voices were well-balanced and there had evidently been careful rehearsal, the rendering of each of the part songs being admirable and calling forth very warm applause. The choir numbered about twenty and great praise is due to the conductor, Mr. Ward, and to each of the members for a very finished performance. After the opening part song Miss Murray Bain appeared and gave a sweet and sympathetic rendering of the song "O Sing to me the Auld Scotch Sangs," for which she received a well deserved encore, in response to which she repeated the last verse. Mr. J. Gilchrist followed with the song "Gae Bring tae me a pint o' Wine," for which he was loudly applauded. Mrs. Vallings, who made her first appearance since her return from home, met with a very enthusiastic reception as she stepped on to the stage. She was down for two songs, "Mary o' Argyle" in the first part and "Bonnie Strathyre" in the second, and both were of course encored. Mrs. Vallings kindly responded in both cases, singing "Loch Lomond" in reply to the first and "Melville Castle" in reply to the second. It is always a treat to hear Mrs. Vallings sing; but though good in both, we think she appears to better advantage in light and humorous songs than in pathetic or sentimental ones, and of the four she gave on Tuesday evening we liked her best in "Melville Castle." The fifth item in the first part of the programme was one that had been looked forward to with a great amount of interest, namely, the recitation of "Tam o'Shanter," by H.E. Major-General Wilsone Black, C.B. His Excellency gave the well-known piece with a considerable amount of dramatic power and humour and in the broadest Doric. Needless to say the audience signified its approval and enjoyment unmistakably. The next item was a song by Mrs. Gordon, "Bonnie Prince Charlie." Mrs. Gordon, with her deep and rich contralto voice, is always a favourite with Hongkong audiences, and with each appearance the desire to hear her again increases. As an encore on Tuesday night she sang "The Auld Hoose." In the second part of the programme, after the opening part song, Mrs. Hand, who possesses a strong mezzo-soprano voice of good quality, sang "Rothsay Bay," and received a warm encore, to which she responded by repeating the last verse. The next item was the trio "Willie brewed a Peck o' Maut," by Messrs. E. F. Mackay, J. Gilchrist, and C. Smart, which was also encored. Mrs. Vallings's second song we have already mentioned. Mr. M. Alsberg gave a violin solo, Mackenzie's "Benedictus," which he played with much feeling and perfect execution, and at its conclusion the audience signified its appreciation by very hearty applause. Mr. G. Balloch gave a spirited rendering of "Sound the Pibroch," and in response to the encore sang "She kilted her coats o' green satin." The part songs "Duncan Gray" and "Auld Lang Syne," followed by

"God Save the Queen," brought a most enjoyable concert to a close. The accompanists were Mr. A. G. Ward, Mr. G. Grimble, and Mrs. Saunders.

THE NAVY LEAGUE.

ADDRESS BY G. C. ANDERSON.

On 31st January Captain G. C. Anderson read a paper on "Some reasons why we should give our support to the Navy League" at a meeting of the members of the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League held in the City Hall. Commander W. C. H. Hastings, R.N., presided over a large attendance. He mentioned that a chart of the necessary extensions of the British frontier at Kowloon had been sent to the Navy League in London and by the kindness of Mr. D. Gillies, a copy of the chart had been made in the Dock Company's office and was now open for the inspection of members. The present area of the colony was some 30 square miles, and the necessary extensions comprised about 450 square miles. The extensions were necessary in order unmistakeably to preclude the possibility of any coaling station, harbour of refuge, or other *pied à terre* being ceded or seized in our vicinity by possible enemies and to end once and for all the dual control of the approaches to the colony. He emphasized the necessity for an increased membership and pointed out the urgent need for an Association like this that, irrespective of party, kept one aim steadily in view, namely, that there shall be a continuity of policy with regard to our first line of defence—the Navy—and to see that its growing needs were liberally supplied. It was as true now and in Hongkong as it was 1,800 years ago in Judea that "he that is not for me is against me." (Applause.)

Captain Anderson then delivered his address. He said the League did not desire to dictate to those in authority, but to ensure that the experts, our Admirals, constructors, engineers, and others shall be supplied with the means of executing what their united wisdom considered best for the safety and needs of the Empire, and in educating the people in all the needs and requirements of the Navy. The League was smoothing the way and making things easy for the Government. Last year a statement went the round of the papers that the naval expenditure of great Britain for 1896 was at the rate of 10/- per head of the population, a statement calculated to make our eyes open wide. The estimate was probably made on the basis of the population of the United Kingdom, but the fact is that the expenditure was for a navy which had to protect the whole of the British Empire with a population of over three hundred and sixty million souls, so that the rate was something like 1/2 per head—not a very exorbitant rate to pay for a year's protection. We should construct our fleet of battleships on a scale that would let the world know that we meant to retain the sovereignty of the seas, no matter what the mere money cost might be. Another weak point was the want of men for both the Navy and the merchant service, and this was a matter on which some definite line of policy should be adopted, for at present we were only drifting. After pointing out the tremendous commercial interests that had to be safeguarded by the Navy Captain Anderson said that as a body the Navy League had no concern with details or debateable questions; its object was the safety of the country, and its business to instruct the public as to our position with regard to foreign nations, our commerce, our colonies, and our trade routes. Surely this was a programme which every Briton could and ought to support. Speaking of the supply of merchant seamen and its bearing on the manning of the Navy he said that he was recently on board a steamer in this harbour which had come from Cardiff. Her crew, exclusive of officers, consisted of (deck) four Greeks, three Austrians, one Englishman; (engine room) three Norwegians, one Swede, one German, one Chilean, one Greek, and one Englishman. The manning question had reached a somewhat acute stage, all the good British born seamen were secured by the big lines, and there were not enough for them. Some of the regular liners from home to Chinese waters were solving the question by employing Chinese

and so far were very well satisfied. Of course sooner or later there would be trouble with the home Unions. It was sorrowful to see British sailors replaced by Chinese, but it had to be admitted that it was the British sailors' own fault. The class that shipped in tramps would not behave and made the life of a shipmaster a misery. The Chinese did behave and gave no trouble, besides doing excellent work especially as firemen. Officers told him that the change in their lives since they began to ship Chinese was marvellous. They had peace and quietness now where before all was tumult. It was a moot point how far we could trust Chinese in war time. The question of merchant seamen was undoubtedly one for the earnest consideration of the nation and worth all the thought that could be bestowed upon it. We must have trained respectable men, and not as at present, the failures and scum of the cities and slums.

Mr. Gershom Stewart proposed and Mr. Granville Sharp seconded a hearty vote of thanks to Captain Anderson for his highly interesting and instructive lecture.

HONGKONG ODD VOLUMES SOCIETY.

PRESENTATION OF AN ADDRESS TO H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

INTERESTING LECTURE BY MR. W. MACHELL.

On Friday afternoon, 28th Jan., advantage was taken of a meeting of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society, held in the City Hall for the purpose of hearing a lecture by Mr. W. Machell, to present His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., with an address from the members of the Society. The presentation was made by His Excellency Major-General Black, and there was a very large attendance of members.

Major General Black—Your Excellency, it would be odd indeed if the Odd Volumes of Hongkong allowed you, their honoured President and one of the Society's most industrious members, to depart without a word of farewell. (Applause.) We have therefore set down our appreciation of you as a brother Odd Volume in the plain and unvarnished tale which I now ask our hon. Secretary to read and you, Sir, to accept as a memento of many evenings passed under the auspices of this oddly named but well-assorted Society— evenings, Sir, to which you have added much pleasure and instruction by your presidency and your efforts.

Mr Pollock, hon. Secretary, then read the following address:

Mr. Pollock then read the address as follows:

Hongkong, January 1898.

To Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, G.C.M.G.

Sir,—Upon the near approach of your departure from this colony, we the undersigned, members of Hongkong Odd Volumes desire to testify to you our warm appreciation of the kind assistance which you have invariably accorded to the promotion of the objects of this Society.

You have been our President almost ever since your arrival in this colony, but you have not rested content with occupying a purely nominal and honorary position. On the contrary, you have actively assisted both as a contributor to the Book Plate and as a lecturer in the furtherance of the aims of our Society, whilst your regular attendance at our meetings has been a constant source of encouragement to us.

In conclusion we beg leave to assure you that, in whatever sphere of public usefulness you may hereafter be employed, you will always carry with you the hearty good wishes of the Hongkong Odd Volumes for your prosperity and happiness—We are sir, yours faithfully,

(Here follow the signatures.)

Mr. Pollock then handed the address to His Excellency.

His Excellency the Governor was received with applause on rising to respond. He said— Your Excellency General Black, Mr. Pollock, members of the Hongkong Odd Volumes, I thank you most sincerely for the address which you have just presented to me. It has afforded me the utmost pleasure during the last five or six years to promote in any way the excellent objects and aims of this most active Society. From the list of lectures to be given this season it is evident that the popularity of the Odd Volumes and its sphere of usefulness are increasing. I heartily reciprocate your good wishes and trust that a prosperous and beneficent future is in store for your admirable Society. (Applause.)

Major-General Black—Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Machell was good

enough to send me a copy of his lecture, with a view, I suppose, that I should use it. I did not read it for three reasons. First, because I have every confidence in Mr. Machell; secondly, because I would rather learn what his lecture is from his own lips; and, thirdly, because I am quite sure that that is your opinion also. (Laughter). I do not consider it any part of the duty of a Chairman to dull the edge of curiosity in a lecturer, any more than it is for an indiscreet and loquacious friend to tell you the story of a novel, the reading of which you are looking forward to spending a pleasant evening.

Mr. Machell then delivered his address on the traditions and historical associations of the Hongkong Chinese. He said :—

This is not an attempt to make a history of Chinese Hongkong, and much of what I shall say is not original. All I have hoped to do is so to bring together a few points of historical interest that the ramblers among our local hills and coast villages may know where to look for the few interesting relics of our little outpost's past. Several ways of dealing with the subject occurred to me and I have chosen that of order of time as at once the most interesting and best to be understood. In speaking of history as existing locally I am greatly encouraged by the fact that the few points I shall refer to are history in the accepted sense of trustworthy records of actual occurrences.

China has periods of fable, of legend, of chaotic record. What nation has not? The early accounts of every nation must necessarily be obscure and doubtful. National vanity and a love of the marvellous influence them all. I start with records uninfluenced by aught of this, in times when history, "the art preservative of all arts," was a trustworthy record of leading events and changes that have local interest.

Where I use tradition I would ask you to bear in mind that memorials such as the Pyramids are not found in all lands, and that the Great Wall is the only great relic of human labour or art in China. Tradition is not the less authentic in that it is somewhat difficult of proof—a remark I have felt forced to make, when a hypercritical bore who had been taken over old camp sites and told of the terrible mortality in them when occupied prior to 1862 said, "But where are the graves?" If I go further and use conjecture, I do it but to interest you, and surely a mild conjecture is not inadmissible, when built on data quite as ample as those which led Dr. Legge to the very reasonable conjecture that the present Chinese are descendants of settlers, who came through Central Asia, along the Tarim Valley, and across the Desert into the province of Kansuh, about B.C. 2200!

Authentic history begins locally about 1278 A.D. Kublai Khan the Mongol had then overthrown the Sung Dynasty, and his forces were hounding down its last Emperor, Ti Ping, a mere boy. This boy had coasted along from Foochow till his fleet entered the waters of Hongkong. Here for a few months the Imperial Court rested. Just within the present boundary of British Kowloon is a long double topped hill, the base of one of its summits washed by the sea, the base of the other summit among the swampy ground between Matauchung (Br.) and Kowloon City (Ch.). Across the dip between the two summits runs the path—road it would be called in China—from Hunghom (Kowloon Dock) to Kowloon City. South of the path is the seaward summit of the hill, still marked by embankments and trenches and crowned by immense blocks of rock, the largest of which bears an inscription consisting of three Chinese characters. These read Sung Wong Tong (hall of a King of the Sung). The Chinese regard this as a genuine inscription, some 600 years old, and in 1807 the characters were renewed, by order of the Viceroy of Canton. The date of this renewal is given in a second inscription, by the side of the ancient record. Excavations and quarrying were prohibited under the severest penalties, and the Chinese Government specially stipulated, when ceding the locality to us, that the rock, inscription, and entire hill should remain untouched. The genius and philosophy of the scholars of the Sung Dynasty made it one of the greatest dynasties of the Middle Kingdom, and in the eyes of Chinese officials and literati

this record of its saddest hour, and memorial of a melancholy close is exceptionally sacred. It was an unfortunate wait that sojourn of the boy Emperor and his forces, on and around the hill by Matauchung. They waited for news of the Mongol movements, and for help from Canton. News came that that city had gone over to the Mongols, and the Sung sailed at once to the south. The treacherous surrender of Canton had, however, enabled the Mongols to equip and organise a fleet, which cut off and hemmed in the fugitives on the West River S.W. of Macao. All being lost, the boy Emperor and his Prime Minister threw themselves overboard and perished, ending life, dignity, and dynasty together. To add, if possible, to the halo of romance woven by the literati round this tragic close of what to them was the dynasty, they are able to point to the expulsion of the Mongols 89 years later, and the establishment of a native Ming, or "the Bright" Dynasty, as indicating that Heaven resented the usurpation of the Mongols and punished their unworthiness. This scene of earliest authentic local history is easy of access. A good path leads from Hunghom through a series of coast villages, and past typical quarry outlets. Part of the way is along a stone road characteristic of China, and the creek at the foot of the hill is crossed by an interesting old bridge. The whole route is practicable for chairs and its surroundings very satisfactory from a sanitary point of view. In the cool season, notably in December and January, the trip is delightful and easily managed between tiffin and dusk.

History, even authentic tradition, now for centuries says little of what is now the Crown colony of Hongkong. This dot on the ocean and its peninsular dependency were too insignificant to call for notice. But for the fact that the navigation routes of the south-west coasts of China lay of necessity from Foochow, Amoy, and Swatow, through Lyemoon and this harbour by way of Kapshuimoon to Canton, we should probably know nothing more till the British occupation. Steady tradition avers that Hongkong was a great bane to this coast trade. It was a pirate haunt, dreaded by peaceful traders, and all but independent of Imperial control. Shaukiwan and Aberdeen were the chief settlements of these plunderers, ostensibly fishermen, whose race is by no means extinct yet. From about 1640 to about 1650 these gentry were content to levy a small toll on trading craft, a moderation which we may feel assured their descendants copied and practised. The Ming dynasty fell before the present and at first very energetic and capable Manchus in 1644; when the enlightened Emperor Kanghi encouraged foreigners to come to his court and systematically favoured foreign trade. With the decay of Manchu vigour their piratical rapacity reappeared.

During this period—the Ming and early Ta Tsing (or Manchu) Dynasties—the actual settlement of the island took place. Kowloon peninsula first, then later Hongkong, were peopled by peaceful rustics from the adjoining Tungkoon district. Kowloon City, as we now call it, was peopled by Cantonese settlers. These took up all the available arable land, and as their numbers grew, the eastern half of Tungkoon was constituted a separate district, called Sun On, the capital of which was, and is, Sun On, or Namtau (a duplicate of Kowloon City as to walls, &c.) on the Canton river. (This little walled town was taken by assault by us in 1858. The supplies of food and servants had been stopped by the mainland mandarins, and a boat from one of Her Majesty's ships had been fired on, when delivering a proclamation, under a flag of truce, to the mandarin at Sun On, i.e., Namtau. The result of this spirited action, agreed upon by General Straubenzee and Commodore Stewart, was an immediate and satisfactory change of attitude in the mandarins. The second bombardment was in 1859). The Domesday Book, or land register, was however still kept at Tungkoon, which yamen took up the taxes, whilst the harbours and bays were policed by the coast guard from Taipang, a walled town on Mirs Bay, some 40 miles from Hongkong, but since the British occupation, from Kowloon City. This first settlement of the land by honest, industrious folk was barely an established fact, when the Hakkas appeared. These came from the hills of N.E. Kwangtung (the Canton

Province) and spoke a different dialect to that of the Cantonese or Punti settlers. They were charcoal burners, grass cutters, quarrymen, or blacksmiths, as opportunity offered, a hardy, good-natured, honest race who lived and thrived on the hill side patches and swamps neglected by the Puntis. This race deserves our special notice. From our first appearance in China till to-day they have been our staunch supporters, our mainstay in fact, wherever hard work and great risks were needed. The Chinese coolie-corps of 750 Hakkas, organised in 1857, did splendid service to our troops in the war. As the Puntis have ever been our enemies so have the Hakkas ever been our friends.

Later than the Hakkas came a fierce and daring race—the Hoklos—dreaded to this day for their exceptional daring and ferocity. They were sailors to a man, natural smugglers and pirates and the terror of the Chinese coast guards. Shaukiwan, Tokawan, Hunghom, and Yaumati were their early settlements, places that have a somewhat sinister repute even yet. These settlements still show well marked indications of the racial characteristics of their early founders. In six large villages the active, cunning, and smart Punti still predominates; in eighteen hill and quarry hamlets, the sturdy Hakka; in four fishing centres, the truculent Hoklo.

To these, but centuries later, came the Tanka, or boat people, the pariahs of South China, always the trusty allies of foreigners, and a Jack-of-all-trades race. It would be hard to conjure up a more utterly banned race than this. They may neither settle on shore, nor compete at examinations, nor intermarry with the rest of the people. In the days of the Canton factories the Chinese authorities warned foreigners by annual proclamation against the demoralising influence of the Tanka. To this already more than sufficient brand of iniquity they added by acting as pilots and provision caterers to our war-vessels and merchantmen, when death was their inevitable fate if captured. They are still pilots, the crews of ships, fish and cattle dealers, and have a great tendency to settle ashore and become absorbed in the mass of the Chinese population. That the village communities of these greatly differing settlers were large and flourishing we have fortunately a record in the period of British occupation, when the census of 1841 gives the land population at 3,650. Of these 2,550 were villagers and fishermen in some 20 localities—Shaukiwan and Wongneichung leading as to numbers. Anent this last village there is a curious tradition, or say superstition, that Happy Valley was meant to be the business centre of Hongkong, but the Chinese traders strenuously contended that its fungshui was malignant and wholly unacceptable. Far back in the Ming dynasty (1468-1628) Puntis formed the settlement of Wongneichung. May we not assume that their inordinate greed re price of land originated the bad "fungshui" story. You look in vain for many of these villages now—their sites even are obliterated in most cases. Looking at the temporary structural elements of latter day unvalued villages, this vanishing is not a matter for wonder. They—much less their ruins—would not greatly alter the contour of our island slopes or beaches. Old lines of British military cantonments, or of pirate holds, are, on the contrary, easy to trace. South of Mount Bremner—in the direction of Wongneichung Gap—is a large area very similar to that once forming Chang Pao's hold at the Peak. This area must have once been the site of an important settlement, the ruins of which were very distinct 12 years ago. May not this have been the twin-hold of Ching Yih, the daring coadjutor of Chang Pao, those two worthies—for so they are rated in local tradition—who so terrorised Kwangtung, and successfully defied an allied force of Portuguese and Chinese in 1810. Even Shap Ng-tsai and Chui Apou of 1849-51 may have found this valley admirably adapted for convalescent and recruiting purposes.

Actual history comes in again about the close of the Punti, Hakka, Hoklo Settlement. That period of comparative peaceful progress was followed by one great unrest.

In 1628 the Ming Dynasty had its death blow. Its scattered army yet hoped for a turn in fortune's tide, and full of this hope, chose the island of Hongkong as their rendezvous about

1650. Kong-hi (1662-1722), at once the greatest and most enlightened of Manchu rulers, dealt promptly and effectively with this menace to Manchu sway. An Imperial edict called upon all loyalists to withdraw from Hongkong and cut off all supplies, whereupon the Punti and Hakka settlers left the island, until the rebels had been starved out, or dislodged. The settlers then returned, and tradition and history are silent as to the island till the opening of this century, when it is again referred to as noted for piracy. 600 piratical junks under Ching Yik and Chang Poo were, from 1806 to 1810, the scourge of Kwangtung. So powerful were they that the Governor of Canton went to Macao to reside, and sought Portuguese aid for their suppression. A ten days' attack on the pirates by the allied Portuguese-Chinese forces was fruitless. Later Ching Yik and Chang Poo quarrelled and fought, with the result that the beaten leader made his peace with the Imperial Government; his victorious rival was afterwards bought over by the Viceroy of Kwangtung, whose service he entered. This successful freebooter held the Victoria Peak as his fortified headquarters, and the story of those troubled times and the daring of Chang Pao and his lieutenants, is still popular locally. Two Englishmen—Messrs. Turner and Glasspoole,—who at different times fell into Chang Pao's hands, and were obliged to accompany him on marauding expeditions, have left records of the organisation and tactics of his band of freeholders.

Strictly keeping to Hongkong, we yet must include the first recorded hints of the need for such a place. Lord Napier in 1834 urged the "possession of the island of Hongkong in the eastern entrance of the Canton River." Sir George Best Robinson, who was Chief Superintendent at Lintin from the 22nd January, 1835, to the 14th December, 1836, was constantly on the lookout for a place where British trade might be free from the extortionate greed of the mandarins, and himself free from their vulgar contumely, in a position to assert his dignity as his king's representative. He first recommended to his Government that all British subjects should live on board merchant ships, in some of the beautiful harbours in the neighbourhood of Lantau or Hongkong. Later, convinced by the utterly idiotic attitude of the Chinese authorities that no proper understanding could be established without first resorting to hostilities, he suggests the destruction of one or two forts and the occupation of one or two of the islands in the neighbourhood. Who shall say that he was not a prophet; no prophet could have anticipated more truly the origin of this colony. In the Canton Register, 1836, a correspondent says:—"If the lion's paw is to be put down on any part of the South side of China, let it be Hongkong." And again—"Hongkong, deep water, and a free port for ever." The public mind at home was hardly prepared however to accept the idea of a British colony in China, when the force of events made the cession of Hongkong an accomplished fact in 1841. In 1839 when Elliot was checkmating the wily and infamous Lin, all British ships in Chinese waters were ordered to assemble at Hongkong. That struggle ended in a victory for Lin, but it led to the founding of this colony and deprived Canton for ever of its then immense commercial importance. Lin's idea was to destroy the opium trade and then resume the regular trade. This he had pledged himself to his Emperor he would do. Hence his anxiety to force British trade back to Whampoa and Canton. He intrigued with the Governor of Macao to drive out the British, and sought to make Hongkong untenable by erecting batteries on Tsim-tsa-shui (the Water Police Station hill). Here in July, 1839, a Chinaman named Li Wa-hi was killed in a drunken fray with foreign sailors. Lin's demands for redress were preposterous, and his mad acts and orders rendered a return to Canton and Whampoa by British traders impossible.

The real origin of the colony took effect, when on Tuesday, 27th August, 1839, the British from Macao woke in this anchorage to find its best portions commanded by shore batteries on Tsim-tsa-shui. Thence onward all local Chinese history is in relation to the foreign community. Never for a moment have the Chinese as a mass been allowed by the

mainland officials to assume that Hongkong was aught but part and parcel of the Chinese Empire. You find, however, that no honest Chinese resident believe them. Nowhere could there be more opportunity for tales of terror than in this nest of piracy and their number is legion, but they are not historical and too numerous and harrowing to relate. There is in the Chinese records an account of an unsuccessful attack by the English on Tsim-tsa-shui fort, in November, 1839. The account says we feared a night attack and found the wells poisoned, so retired to our ships. The facts are, that when news of the battle of Chuenpi reached the Tsim-tsa-shui camp, the batteries opened fire on the merchant ships and continued the cannonade during several days. Then the merchant ships, acting on Captain Elliot's demands, moved to Tungku and the harbour was deserted. Result—a great Chinese victory, duly recorded in their annals. In January, 1840, Lin built a third fort at Tsim-tsa-shui. Of these forts and the great camp near them, Chinese traditions speak ill, and the lawlessness of the Tsim-tsa-shui Chinese was one of the arguments for the session of Kowloon. In August, 1862, Kowloon was the scene of sanguinary contests, between the Punti settlers of the inlying villages, and the Hakkas of Tsim-tsa-shui. The military camp of troops for use in the north had, in 1860, and 1861, held ground, which, on their departure, became debateable, and the fight lasted several days.

In Hongkong the traditions that fail only in point of record to be history are of interest only so far as they affect us. They are such as might be expected in the Alsatia of South China. Chui Apou, for some years previous to 1840 commanded a pirate fleet of 23 junks, carrying from 12 to 18 guns each, and manned by 1,800 men. In September-October, 1849, this fleet was entirely destroyed in a series of hard fought engagements. In February of that year Chui Apou murdered Captain Da Costa, R.E., and Lieut. Droyer, of the Ceylon Rifles, on the beach at Wong-ma-kok, near Stanley. This ferocious rover fell into our hands in 1851, was convicted of manslaughter, and committed suicide in jail. Another great leader, Shap Ng-tsai, had 64 junks, with 1,224 guns and 3,180 men. He was attacked and 58 of his fleet destroyed, in the same month that saw the annihilation of Chui Apou's first force. For in March 1850 this last named leader had raised his second fleet of 13 junks, which fleet was destroyed in Mirs Bay. In 1851 a hard battle between eight Chinese gunboats and some piratical junks took place in Aberdeen waters. This great piratical confederacy made Hongkong its headquarters, had lawless Europeans in its ranks, and native marine store dealers for its agents. Its memory is dear to the rough and restless spirits of the seafaring village communities, and assured freedom from piracy is not yet. Rumours that an immense piratical fleet will attack and plunder certain villages are not uncommon. Perhaps the best remembered of historical associations is that commencing with 1854 during the Taiping Rebellion. Fatshan had fallen in July, Canton was panic struck, Kowloon City was, in September, taken and retaken repeatedly by the rebels and Imperialists, and crowds of refugees flocked to Hongkong. Even in Victoria armed bands of Taipings at times paraded the streets, till in December, 1854, some hundreds of them were arrested when embarking to attack Kowloon City.

In January, 1855, there was every likelihood of a naval battle in the harbour here. Nine Imperial war junks, with 2,000 Imperialist soldiers, came in. A large fleet of Taiping war junks was lying in harbour. Both forces were ordered off and went peacefully away. In September, 1856, the Taipings returned and sought leave to charter transport for troops to Poklo, their base of operations against Kwangtung. It was declined. Despite these troublous times the Chinese look upon the years 1854 to 1860 as the period when a better class of people began to settle in Hongkong, and security of life and property to peaceful and industrious citizens became assured. I spoke of our population as greatly increased in 1850-60 and mentioned the panic inspired in Canton by the Taiping movement.

When that moment failed, humanity failed in the breasts of those who, prior to 1855, had so dreaded the Taiping hordes. A count taken at the city gate of Canton revealed the fact that, in one year—1855—80,000 passed to the field of blood near the river, and were there beheaded—700 to 800 in a single day. Thousands fled—for the line between innocence and guilt was not too nicely drawn—and local tradition is rich in tales of hairbreadth escapes, and of how, even here, they dwelt in fear, for our naval forces and the Portuguese hunted down these so called pirates. So dwelling they were exceptionally peaceable citizens, and when finally assured that here was the haven where they would be, gratitude kept them in the same good path—for there is a high sense of gratitude for lasting benefits in a Chinaman.

Thus this Alsatia has its bright side, and it is no exaggeration to assert that many of our best Chinese citizens come to the colony as a haven of rest and security, and above all, a place where they find justice—a thing very dear to them, yet practically obsolete in their own country.

How natural the change is we may gather from a very brief study of town life or village life. The tradition of the 1841 proclamation, revived by an Ordinance of 1858, is still dear to the Chinese mind, viz., that "the Chinese in Hongkong should be governed by elders of villages." This rule of tipaos was declared subject to control, and is not now officially existent. It is, notwithstanding, in effective and highly benefical action yet, mainly because of that security, justice, and peace found in Hongkong.

Here, practically, the history of Hongkong Chinese ends. Piracy was rank up to 1860-1865, but gradually forsook the formation of fleets and neglected the poor prizes of junk raiding for the richer gains of foreign vessels, which were attacked and plundered with great success. These ships were doubtless informed on by local spies, and there is strong presumption that the attacks were organised locally. Their story belongs to a modern period well within the memory of old residents. I have merely sought to show you that somewhat of interest to the Chinese as Chinese has occurred between these two long, harp, blue crests that lie on either side our harbour.

Major-General Black returned thanks to Mr. Machell for his most instructive paper, which, he said, was exceedingly well read and would tend to make walks in and near the colony more interesting. Thanks to His Excellency the Governor they possessed the means of walking about. Good roads were being driven in the island where none were existing before, and probably His Excellency would be remembered more for that than for anything else he had done. The man who makes roads advances the powder cart of civilization, which cannot move without roads. A walk in Scotland was most interesting. Every crag, every hill, every valley has its name, and that was very much the same here. There was Shaukiwan. Shaukiwan meant the bay of the little basket—evidently due to the lobster creels the fish were caught in. (Laughter). Then there was Tokawan. Where, appealed the General to Mr. Machell, is Tokawan?

Mr. MACHELL replied that Tokawan was on the Kowloon shore between two arms of land jutting out and having between them an island.

Major-General BLACK—Just so. To-ka-wan probably means "Arms thrown out to embrace an island." (Laughter).

The vote of thanks was enthusiastically carried.

THE U. S. DISCRIMINATING DUTY AND THE CANADIAN PACIFIC LINE.

The General Agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s steamship line has received a telegram from the freight traffic manager at Montreal stating that it has been finally decided that the "discriminating duty" cannot be enforced.

This is in connection with the rumour that has been going about to the effect that the United States were imposing a duty on goods taken into the United States by way of Canada.

CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

THE BELILIOS REFORMATORY.

FOUNDATION STONE LAID BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

On Saturday morning, 29th Jan., His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., laid the foundation stone of the new reformatory at Causeway Bay, the funds for the building of which have been provided by Hon. E. R. Belilius, C.M.G. The site seems to be a most suitable one, being on a spur of Morrison Hill and close to Kennedy's stables and the new cotton mill. The ceremony took place in a matshed, which was prettily decorated with flags. There was a large attendance, amongst those present being, in addition to His Excellency the Governor, Hon. E. R. Belilius, and a large number of ladies, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Colonial Secretary), Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), Hon. B. M. Rumsey, Hon. F. H. May, Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Hon. Ho Kai, Hon. Wei A-yuk, Mr. W. Chatham, Dr. Bateson Wright, Captain Phillips, A.D.C., Mr. N. J. Ede, Mr. J. R. Mudie, Mr. M. N. Vandrawalla, etc.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS said—Your Excellency, I esteem it a privilege as well as a pleasure to be here to-day to take part in what must necessarily be one of the farewell ceremonies of your long and successful administration. (Applause.) It has never, at least in my rather lengthened experience, fallen to the lot of any of your Excellency's predecessors to lay the foundation stone of a new and useful institution in the seventh year of a continued residence in the colony. That alone is an interesting fact; it gains, however, in interest by being coupled with the circumstance that this is the second educational institution of which you will have laid the foundation stone,—(applause)—the first of which you have seen for some years satisfactorily working. For my own part, I am glad to say that the suggestion made to me by my honourable friend the Colonial Secretary that I might assist in the work met my instant approbation. I always have been an earnest advocate of education. I believe most fully in its humanising and elevating effect, and I would like to see it placed within the reach of the poorest, a consummation I hope some day to witness. There are now, however, many children who still wallow in the mire of ignorance, and it is from them that the ranks of the criminals are mainly recruited. To restrain and deter from crime we are compelled to support a huge and costly gaol, where the social outlaw has to be taught that he cannot commit crime with impunity. Victoria Gaol is, however, hardly the place where a Chinese-criminal can be reformed, and, unfortunately, the youthful offender against the law too often emerges from its cells more hardened than when he entered. He suffers contamination from association with older and more depraved criminals. This is almost unavoidable under the present system, it being impossible to segregate all the criminals, though the discipline is excellent so far as it can be carried out. Years ago a reformatory for boys was a necessity, but it did not then appear urgent. The good fathers of the Italian Mission supplied the want, as far as lay in their power, for many years, but the requirements have now grown beyond the means of the Mission institution at West Point, and the Government having agreed to provide a suitable site, I have been only too happy to supply the funds for the erection of the building. (Applause) I feel sure it will meet a want, and I sincerely trust it will be the means of saving many a lad from persevering on the downward and easy road. It is a duty we owe to civilization no less than to poor humanity, to show to the people of China that we provide for the reformation of the young as well as for the punishment of the adult law-breaker—that under the Union Jack mercy tempers justice. (Applause.) Your Excellency, with this trowel and mallet I beg you kindly to lay the stone of the proposed reformatory. (Applause.)

Mr. Belilius handed His Excellency a handsome silver trowel and a blackwood silver-mounted mallet with which to perform the ceremony. The mallet bears the crest of His Excellency, and the following inscription is engraved on the trowel:—"Presented to His

Excellency Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., to lay the foundation stone of the Reformatory, a gift of the Hon. E. R. Belilius, C.M.G., to the colony. Hongkong, 29th January, 1898."

The stone bears the following inscription:—"Foundation stone laid by H.E. Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., Governor, 29th January, 1898. Building presented to the colony by the Hon. E. R. Belilius, C.M.G."

His Excellency, after laying the stone, said—Ladies and gentlemen, I have much pleasure in pronouncing this stone to be well and truly laid. This is the last public act which I shall perform before leaving Hongkong, and it is a most pleasant one to me and a most interesting one to the colony. I did not expect Mr. Belilius would make such a long and eloquent speech as he has done in asking me to lay the foundation stone of what will hereafter be known as the Belilius Reformatory. (Applause.) As you know, the essential functions of these institutions are for the better training of juvenile offenders. They are institutions of comparatively recent growth and are the result of humane endeavour to rescue children from evil courses already embarked upon. To be effective, industrious habits must be engendered in these institutions, and a means must be given to the inmates of earning an honest livelihood. (Applause.) The mere fact of this site having been selected near the large cotton mill being built in the immediate neighbourhood seems to point to the introduction into this new reformatory when it is erected of some species of work connected with cotton-spinning. But, ladies and gentlemen, you will doubtless want to know how it is that Mr. Belilius is mixed up with this affair. What he said was not exactly a correct statement; he is very shy and timid and refrains from giving himself ligation. (Applause.) We found the building at West Point was thoroughly unsuitable for a reformatory. We patched and heightened the walls and put the Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli and the Italian Fathers in charge, but still we could make nothing of it, so we decided to build a reformatory. Mr. Belilius came to me and said—"Sir William, we must have a proper reformatory. I will give you \$12,000 towards the building." Now, ladies and gentlemen, we have the Belilius scholarships, the Belilius medals, a Belilius school, which is the finest school in the colony, and soon we shall have a handsome Belilius Reformatory. (Applause.) Ladies and gentlemen, I consider the colony is deeply indebted to Mr. Belilius—a debt which can never be extinguished. (Applause.) The name of Belilius will be handed over in Hongkong to a grateful posterity. It will be my last public act on Monday to sign a despatch as Governor of this colony, to be sent to the Secretary of State requesting that he will bring this most generous and noble gift to the knowledge of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. (Applause.) I ask you now to give three cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Belilius and family.

After the cheering had ceased, Mr. Belilius said—Ladies and gentlemen, a hearty good cheer for His Excellency the Governor. We are sorry that he is leaving us, and we hope to meet him in the old country as hale and hearty as he is to-day.

Three cheers and a "tiger" were heartily given and the proceedings concluded.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The following is the sixty-fifth report of the court of directors to the ordinary half-yearly general meeting of shareholders to be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on Saturday, 12th February, at noon:

To the proprietors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Gentlemen.—The directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the bank, and balance sheet for the half-year ending 31st December, 1897.

The net profits for that period, including \$301,147.90, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to \$2,429,736.24.

The directors recommend the transfer of \$1,000,000 from the profit and loss account to

credit of reserve fund, which fund will then stand at \$8,000,000.

They also propose to write \$100,000 off dead stock, being the amount standing at debit of the account.

After making these transfers and deducting remuneration to directors there remains for appropriation \$1,314,736.24, out of which the directors recommend a dividend of one pound and five shillings sterling per share, which will absorb \$444,444.44.

The difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend is declared, and 1/11 $\frac{1}{4}$, the rate of the day, amounts to \$571,428.58.

The balance \$293,863.22 to be carried to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving has been elected Chairman for the year 1898, and Mr. R. M. Gray, deputy Chairman.

Mr. St. C. Michaelsen having resigned his seat on leaving the colony, Mr. Armin Haupt has been elected in his stead; the appointment requires confirmation at this meeting.

Messrs. G. B. Dodwell, R. Shewan and R. L. Richardson retire in rotation and being eligible for re-election offer themselves accordingly.

The directors very much regret to have to record the death of their colleague, Mr. Gerald Slade, last November.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Henderson and Mr. C. S. Sharp, who offer themselves for re-election.

J. J. BELL-IRVING, Chairman.

Hongkong, 27th January, 1898.

ABSTRACT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1897.

	LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Paid-up capital	10,000,000.00	
Reserve fund	7,000,000.00	
Marine insurance account	250,000.00	
Notes in circulation	9,888,206.95	
Current accounts:—		
Silver	\$44,141,195.30	
Gold, £1,857,225 0s. 0d. = 18,728,170.70		
	62,869,366.06	
Fixed deposits:—		
Silver	\$31,730,522.12	
Gold, £2,622,738 0s. 0d. = 28,446,670.42		
	58,177,192.54	
Bills payable (including drafts on London bankers and short sight drawings on London office against bills receivable and bullion shipments)	18,750,786.29	
Profit and loss account	2,429,736.24	
	\$169,365,288.02	

	ASSETS.	\$ c.
Cash	17,584,264.83	
Bullion in hand and in transit	7,106,487.97	
Indian and Colonial securities	5,045,098.31	
Investments, viz.:—		
£250,000 0 0 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., Consols lodged with the Bank of England as a special London reserve	\$1,900,000.00	
£551,000 0 0 Consols and other sterling securities 5,553,385.81		
	7,453,385.81	
Bills discounted, loans and credits	61,268,502.20	
Bills receivable	69,846,633.24	
Bank premises	971,965.56	
Dead stock	100,000.00	
	\$169,365,238.02	

GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, 31ST DECEMBER, 1897.

	Dr.	\$ c.
To amounts written off:—		
Remuneration to directors	15,000.00	
To dividend account:—		
£1 5s. per share on 80,000 shares £1 0s. 0d. at 4s. 6d.	444,444.44	
To dividend adjustment account:—		
Difference in exchange between 4s. 6d. the rate at which the dividend is declared, and 1s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. the rate of the day 571,428.58		
To transfer to reserve fund	1,000.00	
To amount written off dead stock	100,000.00	
To balance carried forward to next half-year 293,863.22		
	\$2,429,736.24	

	Cr.	\$ c.
By balance of undivided profits, 30th June, 1897	301,147.90	
By amount of net profits for the six months ending 31st December, 1897, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due ... 2,128,588.84		
	2,429,736.24	
	\$2,429,736.24	

[February 2, 1898]

RESERVE FUND.	\$ c.
To balance	8,000,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$8,000,000.00
By balance, 30th June, 1897	7,000,000.00
By transfer from profit and loss account	1,000,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$8,000,000.00

HONGKONG, CANTON, AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LIMITED.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co., Limited, was held on 29th Jan., at the office of the Company, Bank Buildings. Hon. E. R. Belifios presided and there were also present:—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. F. A. Gomes, N. A. Siebs, C. Beurmann (Directors), Thos. Arnold (Secretary), J. Goosmann, A. Tillett, E. H. Joseph, J. R. Michael, W. G. Winterburn, S. H. Michael, A. Haupt, P. Jordan, Hart Buck, W. E. Clarke, J. H. Cox, E. S. Joseph, A. Denison, W. S. Bailey, D. Gillies, C. S. Sharp, A. A. da Cruz, E. J. Moses, J. M. E. Machado, and H. M. H. Nemazee.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, I will with your permission take them as read. There is very little for me to add to what is stated in the report. The result of the half-year's working may, I think, be considered fairly satisfactory, regard being had to the fact that the price of coal, which constitutes one principal item of expenditure, has been, during the past six months, more than double what it was in the corresponding period of 1896. We had a cheap contract for the Company's requirements to run until the end of the year, but, unfortunately for us, it was not carried through, and we had to buy in the open market at current rates. This, naturally, to a certain extent upset our calculations, as it was not practicable to suddenly advance freights sufficiently to meet the extra expense. However, I am glad to say that we are able to recommend the usual half-yearly dividend, leaving some \$37,000 to be carried forward. At our last meeting, speaking in regard to the West River trade, I said that your Directors did not look for much profit from that source for some time to come; in fact we rather feared that there would be some loss in the early days of the trade, but I am glad to say that we have so far covered expenses, and in the event of no opposition from other steamship companies the trade promises to prove remunerative in the future. In conjunction with the other companies interested we are asking H.M. Minister to use his influence with the Chinese Government to bring about the opening of shorter routes from Canton to the West River than the one now authorised, and when this matter has been settled the question of building larger steamers for the trade will engage the attention of your Board. The usual repairs have been effected during the half-year, and I had hoped to be able to say that no very heavy expenditure in that direction in the near future was anticipated. Unfortunately, however, since the report now before you was issued, the Powan has met with an accident which will entail considerable expense, a portion of which will be recoverable under our policies. Our investment accounts remain in a good sound condition, the mortgages shewing an ample margin on the sums advanced, while the shares stand well within their market value. It does not occur to me that there is anything else to touch upon, but before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions in connection therewith which shareholders may wish to ask.

Captain TILLETT—There is no question, sir, which I should like to ask, but I would like to throw out a suggestion for the consideration of the directors as to whether it would not be sound policy to adopt a somewhat stiffer back in dealing with the native opposition. Of course we should have to sacrifice a certain amount in the way of dividends in future, but still it might pay in the long run. I merely throw it out as a suggestion to be taken into consideration.

The CHAIRMAN—Thank you very much, Captain Tillett. We will take that suggestion into consideration, and perhaps putting a strong face to the opposition may end beneficially to the Company.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Captain TILLETT seconded.

Carried.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING proposed the re-election as auditors of Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and F. Henderson.

Mr. J. H. COX seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business before you, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday morning at ten o'clock.

HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LTD.

The tenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd., was held on 28th Jan. in the Company's Offices, Victoria Buildings. Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving presided. The others present were:—Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, D. Gubbay, A. Haupt, A. J. Raymond, Li Sing (Directors), A. Shelton Hooper (Secretary), N. J. Ede, C. S. Sharp, J. H. Cox, T. I. Rose, J. N. Goosmann, R. K. Leigh, G. Murray Bain, P. Jordan, F. Henderson, J. C. dos Remedios, J. M. E. Machado, S. A. Seth.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, I propose, with your permission, to take the report and accounts, which have been in your hands for some days, as read. On reference to the accounts, you will observe that the gross profits earned for the year under review amounted to \$252,702.24 as against \$253,379.43 for the previous year. Our rent account shows a substantial increase, whilst commission account and the profit arising from sales of properties give an improved return on the figures appearing in previous reports. Interest account necessarily has decreased on account of the large reduction in the amount invested in mortgages and the interest paid on the increased sum standing at loans payable. The total amount advanced on mortgages, you will observe, is about two lacs less than in the former years, whilst our investments in properties are increased by over three lacs. The profits for the past year were somewhat reduced by the necessarily increased expenditure in repairs to property and fire insurance premia, the former having increased from about \$8,000 to \$12,000, and the latter from \$3,400 to \$5,800. Our total assets now amount to \$4,809,290.75, being about ten lacs in excess of our paid-up capital and reserve fund; and it is on this difference that the interest is payable by us as shewn in the profit and loss account. Out of the sum of 24 lacs invested in property, eight to nine lacs represent the value of land which is being developed, and as I stated to you last year, it consequently yields no return for the time being; a large portion of this class of property is land reclaimed and in course of reclamation, and some of it in a sufficiently advanced state to allow buildings to be erected thereon almost immediately, plans for which are now in course of preparation, and on completion of the buildings our revenue from the rents will be largely increased. The principal purchases during the past year have been in land situate in the neighbourhood of Bowen Road and Kennedy Road, where we are erecting European houses of a class for which there is much enquiry, and which we have no doubt will yield a satisfactory return. We have also acquired land from the Government in Taiping-shan whereon will be built Chinese houses and shops, for which there is a demand in that locality. The whole of the Company's buildings are in a good condition and satisfactorily rented, the returns from which have recently improved, and your Directors look forward to a further increasing revenue therefrom. Before leaving the matter of the investment in property, I would particularly beg to draw your attention to the fact that it must be a few years before their development is complete, and therefore our profits (by writing-off the interest

and Crown rent on same, whilst the properties themselves are unyielding) must necessarily be curtailed, and the policy adopted by your Directors of carrying forward the substantial sum we do, instead of dividing it, will, we hope and believe, meet with your approval. Having already, as mentioned, a large sum invested in undeveloped properties it is not at present the intention of your Directors to acquire a further interest in properties wholly undeveloped unless they are obtainable on most favourable terms. Our mortgages all show, in the opinion of your Directors, most satisfactory margins, and in many cases the margins have been increased by the mortgagors against any wish on our part to reduce the advances.

The CHAIRMAN—There being no questions, I beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. C. S. SHARP—I beg to second the proposal just submitted for the adoption of the report and accounts. I feel sure we have all listened with much interest to the remarks you have just made on the Company's affairs. I am very glad to see the Company going in more for what I may call its legitimate business, i.e., property-owning as against money-lending, and I think this course is one which much commend itself to the general body of shareholders. Personally I should like for this reason to see a further decrease in the amount appearing under the head of amounts advanced on mortgage and a corresponding further increase in the "Amount invested in property" whenever opportunities can be found for making suitable property purchases. No doubt many may feel a shade of disappointment that our collective returns are not of a more progressive character, but though revenue from interest falls off the great and promising feature is the considerable and steady increase of recent years in the amounts returned in "Rent Account," the figures being close on \$128,000 last year as against only about \$75,000 for 1895. Also, as you have just shown us, a very considerable sum is invested in property still in course of development, and therefore not revenue-bearing. We must, therefore, rest content for the present, in the certain hope; as I may say, of much better figures for the future when these properties are finally brought up to the revenue-bearing point. In this connection it seems highly satisfactory to learn that a portion of our reclaimed land is at last so far advanced as to allow of building operations being taken in hand at a very early date. We all know, too, what a fine property the Company will have in its recent purchases in the neighbourhood of the Bowen and Kennedy Roads, which promises to become a favourite and populous locality for European residences. Personally, I think property in Hongkong has a bright future before it. The tendency seems to be ever onwards, and judging by the signs around us the demand for houses, the marked activity, more especially of late, in developing and building going on every hand, we appear to have arrived at the commencement of an era of renewed progress and prosperity, in which I cannot help feeling confident this Company, with all its advantages of ample resources, good credit, and able direction, will reap a rich and ever-increasing harvest. We can thus look forward with the best of confidence to the future. (Applause.)

Carried.

Mr. EDE—I have much pleasure in proposing that Messrs. A. J. Raymond, A. Gubbay, and A. Haupt be confirmed as Directors of the Company.

Mr. LEIGH seconded.

Carried.

Mr. ROSE—I have much pleasure in proposing the re-election of Messrs. Siebs and Gubbay as directors.

Mr. J. H. COX seconded.

Carried.

Mr. MURRAY BAIN—I have much pleasure in proposing the re-election as auditors of Messrs. Fullerton Henderson and Coutts.

Mr. GOOSMANN seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that concludes the business of the meeting. I have to thank you for your attendance. I may mention that

February 2, 1898.]

CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

those of you who apply at the office to-morrow morning will receive dividend warrants. I may also state that dividend warrants will be posted to all those outside the colony whose addresses are known.

KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The tenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Kowloon Land and Building Co., Ltd., was held on 20th Jan. at the Company's Offices, Victoria Buildings. Mr. F. Henderson presided. The others present were:—Messrs. J. H. Cox, J. Goosmann, and E. Jones Hughes (Directors), A. Shelton Hooper (Secretary), E. George, P. Jordan, H. Holmes, and M. S. Northcote.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, there is really very little to say in regard to the report which is now before you of the Company. The houses in Knutsford Terrace have been occupied fully throughout the year, and those in Canton Villas have been occupied from the time of their completion. As the neighbourhood seems to be a popular one we are in hopes that this state of things will continue. The houses have been kept in proper repair without any extraordinary expenditure. With the completion of the three new houses that constitute Canton Villas the development of the Company must be considered now as completed. The formation of the land does not admit of any further extensions. The proposed dividend, as you will have noticed, is \$1, as against 80 cents last year. I may mention, gentlemen, that the rents that we are receiving for the Canton Villas are quite equal to what was expected when the balance of money in hand was invested in these properties. I will be happy to answer any questions in reference to the report.

Mr. HOLMES—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, the only remark I would like to make is a query of the last statement made by the Chairman as to the further development of the property. I think that is quite an open question, and that the property in after years may be open to great development. I do not say at the present time, but in after years.

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Holmes, the remarks were made entirely with reference to the present condition of things.

Mr. HOLMES—Quite so.

The CHAIRMAN—if it so happens that the British Government obtains a scientific frontier in Kowloon there may be some startling developments in Kowloon; but I do not think it would be safe to take that into account.

Mr. HOLMES—Just so.

No further questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and passing of accounts.

Mr. HOLMES seconded.

Carried.

Mr. GEORG—Mr. Chairman, I beg to propose the re-election of Messrs. E. Jones Hughes and J. H. Cox as directors for the ensuing year.

Mr. HOLMES seconded.

Carried.

Mr. GEORG—I have also much pleasure in proposing the re-election of Messrs. Thos. Arnold and W. H. Gaskell as auditors.

Mr. GOOSMAN seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow on application at the office here. I am much obliged to you, gentlemen, for your attendance. Thank you.

WEST POINT BUILDING CO., LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the West Point Building Company, Limited, was held on 28th Jan. at the Company's offices, Victoria Buildings. Hon. C. P. Chater presided and there were also present, Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. C. S. Sharp, A. J. Raymond (Directors), A. Shelton Hooper (Secretary), N. J. Ede, T. I. Rose, R. K. Leigh, R. Shewan, Paul Jordan, T. Goosmann, K. McK. Ross, J. C. dos Remedios, and M. S. Sassoon.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I will, with your permission, take the report and accounts as read. In presenting the same your directors are pleased to be able to point out that the balance at credit of profit and loss account has increased to \$17,061.06, as against \$13,039.10 in the previous year, thereby enabling them to recommend a dividend of \$1.25 per share, which is an increase of 35 cents per share over last year, a result which you, no doubt, will deem satisfactory. The rent account has increased from \$27,863.23 to \$30,665.72, and we have saved about \$800 in interest and \$500 in repairs, but there has been an increase of \$400 in insurance. The whole of the property is in good condition, and we trust before long the property may be entirely occupied. Should any shareholders wish for any further information I shall be glad to answer any questions which may be put.

Mr. EDE—How many houses remain unoccupied?

The CHAIRMAN—There are altogether 98 houses: 74 houses are wholly occupied and we are getting \$2,085 a month from them. 24 houses are partially occupied, the floors vacant numbering 26, and there are three floors in each house. There are no whole houses vacant, but there are altogether 26 floors which if occupied at the rentals the adjoining floors are fetching would be \$398 a month more.

The CHAIRMAN then moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. SHEWAN—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution. As I notice my landlord has the honour of a seat on the Board and has just raised my rent 10 per cent. I have no doubt that he is advising similar action on the part of this Company. (Laughter).

Carried.

Mr. ROSS moved the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. A. J. Raymond as Director.

Mr. ROSE seconded.

Carried.

Mr. EDE moved the re-election as Directors of the Hons. C. P. Chater and J. J. Bell-Irving.

Mr. SASSOON seconded.

Carried.

Mr. LEIGH proposed the re-election of Mr. F. Henderson as auditor.

Mr. JORDAN seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow morning. I thank you for your attendance.

THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the seventeenth annual report for presentation to the shareholders at the meeting to be held on Saturday, 5th February, at noon:

The General Managers have pleasure in submitting to the shareholders a statement of the Company's accounts for the year 1897.

Including \$1,769.13 brought forward from last year and after deducting \$10,000 paid on 28th July last as an interim dividend of \$2.00 per share, the balance at credit of Profit & Loss is \$53,940.52 which it is recommended should be appropriated as follows:—

A final dividend of \$5.50 per share, \$27,500.00

To write off Property Account, ... 25,000.00

To carry forward, 1,440.52

\$53,940.52

The amount to be provided for the extension to the works will be somewhat larger than the original estimate owing to the increased cost of building, and the lower exchange at which payment has now to be made for plant from England, delay having been experienced in obtaining delivery of the new machinery, consequent upon the general dislocation of the engineering trade at home.

With this in view the General Managers recommend that the amount above mentioned should be written off Property Account. The buildings for the new plant are now in course of erection, to better accommodate which a small extension of land has been acquired from the Government at a moderate cost.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 26th January, 1898.

ASSETS.	\$. .
Property account	77,000.00
Extension account	32,788.26
Invested in :—	
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co.'s share	225.00
Canton Insurance Office's share	150.00
China Fire Insurance Co.'s share	92.50
Debentures of Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited	10,000.00
Mortgage on property	30,000.00
Cash on hand	603.91
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, current account	3,948.32
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, deposit account	30,000.00
Outstanding accounts	1,941.19
Accounts receivable	1,508.76
Ice on hand	180.00
Coal on hand	100.00
	\$188,535.94

LIABILITIES.	\$. .
Capital account	125,000.00
Accounts payable	7,187.17
Ammonia reserve account	2,408.25
Profit and loss account	53,940.52
	\$188,535.94

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	\$. .
To salaries, wages, and general trade expenses	23,400.57
To value of one share in the Canton Insurance Office, Limited, written down from \$175 to \$150	25.00
To general managers' commission	2,000.00
To auditor's fee	100.00
	25,534.57

To interim dividend of 8 per cent. paid on 28th July, 1897	10,000.00
To balance	53,940.52
	\$89,475.09
	\$. .

By balance brought forward from last year	1,769.13
By receipts for ice during the year, value of stock in hand, &c.	82,290.32
By rents received (less Crown rents and taxes paid)	1,487.91
By interest	3,403.53
By transfer fees	18.00
By unclaimed dividends, written off under clause 167 of the Articles of Association	506.18
	\$89,475.09

DAIRY FARM COMPANY, LTD.

The first ordinary yearly meeting of the shareholders in the Dairy Farm Company was held on 31st January in the Company's Depôt, Wyndham Street. Dr. Noble presided and there were also present:—Captain Tillett, Captain Burnie, Mr. G. Sharp (Directors), Messrs. J. Walker (Manager), W. H. Potts (Secretary), and J. M. E. Machado.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—The accounts and report having been in your hands for some days, I will with your permission take them as read. As stated in the report, the herd is now in good health and condition, after the late epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease, which made its appearance for the first time in the colony (and in China, so far as we are able to ascertain) in November last. Fortunately, this disease was not fatal like the rinderpest which proved so disastrous in 1896—and our herd being divided, and at three stations, the supply of milk was not entirely cut off, as it was during the visitation of rinderpest, at which time we had but one station in use (Pokfulum), which place was declared an infected area, and closed up for a time. The trouble we have to face at present is the enhanced price of grain and fodder; bran, a large item, having increased over 100 per cent. Our herd has been largely and steadily increased. We have purchased cattle with our profits instead of paying dividends, thus greatly strengthening the position of the Company. The proceeds of the call recently made have also been applied to the purchase of stock, and we trust you will approve of the policy we have adopted. I beg to propose that the report as printed be adopted.

Mr. MACHADO seconded.

Carried.

Mr. MACHADO proposed the re-election of Mr. G. Sharp and Captain Tillett as Directors.

Mr. WALKER seconded.

Carried.

Captain BURNIE proposed the re-election of Mr. F. Henderson as auditor.

Dr. NOBLE seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. I am very much obliged to you for your attendance.

The following is the report of the directors:

The directors herewith present to the shareholders a statement of the Company's accounts for the year ended 31st July, 1897.

The profit for the year, after writing off \$3,061.20 for depreciation and \$825 for directors' and auditors' fees, is \$3,972.07, which it is proposed, in view of past experience, to carry forward.

The herd of cattle, which has been largely increased since the 31st July last, is now in excellent health and condition.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. Granville Sharp and Capt. Tillett retire by rotation and being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The annexed accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Henderson, who offers himself for election for the current year.—

ALEXANDER TILLETT,
Acting Chairman.

Hongkong, 24th January, 1898.

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST JULY, 1897.

	\$ c.
To capital, 10,000 shares at \$7 50 each.....	75,000.00
Less not called up \$2.50 per share.....	25,000
	<hr/>
To deposit account.....	50,000.00
To accounts payable.....	3,162.59
To profit and loss.....	3,972.07
	<hr/>
	\$57,170.66
By cattle	\$22,061.20
Less written off	3,061.20
	19,000.00
	<hr/>
By property farm lot: 18, 19, 25 and 32	12,000.00
By buildings	10,000.00
By town depot	9,000.00
By stores	1,159.86
By furniture	240.00
By cash in hand	244.07
By cash in bank	2,369.05
	2,613.12
	<hr/>
By accounts receivable	2,907.68
By fodder on hand	250.00
	<hr/>
	\$57,170.66
<hr/>	
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	\$ c.
To written off cattle	3,061.20
To bad debts	55.54
To directors' and auditors' fee	825.00
To balance	3,972.07
	<hr/>
	\$7,913.81
By balance of working account	\$7,913.81

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following progress report on the operations carried on at the Company's mine for the month ending 31st December, 1897:

August Shaft 300 feet Level.—Fair progress has been made in driving the cross cut here, 51 feet having been driven for the month, making its total length from Shaft 151 feet. Better progress than this even would have been made but for the heavy floods experienced during the last six days, which threw a good deal of water into the mine and so prevented the men from working. No actual damage has been done down in the mine and I hope to see the water all out in another five or six days. The ground continues good for driving and will undoubtedly carry us up to the reef. Judging by the depth of the reef where seen in the upper part of the mine we should be near if not quite up to it by the end of the coming month.

200 feet Level.—Very little progress has been made in extending the north drive on the course of the western chute of ore owing to the hard nature of the reef and the class of workmen employed being far from good. Gold has been seen in the ore and as it is pretty heavily charged

with iron pyrites I consider our prospects have improved here very much during the month.

North Shaft.—This has been connected with the crosscut at the 200 feet level and the necessary timbers put in. The plat has been cut and all water taken up and led to the pump in the August Shaft. Sinking below the 200 feet level has been resumed and 7 feet sunk. Here, too, the flood water has retarded progress during the last six days, but I hope to see work resumed on the 2nd proximo.

Drivage.—The total drivage for the month is 69 feet. No ore has been mined.

Milling.—This was carried on during 30 days crushing 2,400 tons of headings yielding 242. ozs. 3.0 grs. of melted gold. This is a substantial improvement as compared with November and as we have now got on to what appears to be a better class of headings I look forward to getting a still better return for January. I may tell you that I estimate the quantity of headings in stock as fully 40,000 tons, all of which I think can be milled at a profit now that we have the water wheel at work.

Berdans.—These ran full time on concentrates, treating 25 tons for a yield of 45 ounces of milled gold.

Cyanide Works.—These works ran 26 days treating 756 tons of old tailings yielding 275 ounces of bullion valued at 19/04 per oz. Two days were lost here owing to a landslip in the water race which prevented the water coming home to the water wheel.

General.—Our usual attention has been given to all work coming under this head and up to the 25th inst. (the commencement of the floods) everything was kept in good order. For four days after this we had a very anxious time, however, as the rain began to fall in torrents and the water courses to rise. By the evening of the 27th it looked as if nothing could save our main dam, for in addition to the water flowing through the byewashes there was a volume fully 4 ft. deep and 140 ft. wide going over the retaining wall. It was impossible to approach it so we could only stand by and wait results. Fortunately the dam stood the strain and with but little damage. Heavy landslips took place in various places along the main water-race to the mill but with a strong gang of men at work these were cleared and the dam repaired by the morning of 29th, when crushing was resumed. No such flood has ever been experienced here before, the water in the Jelai and Lepis rivers rising 7 ft. above the flood level of any previous year. Our damage will not exceed \$250.

Labour.—The supply of Chinese miners has fallen off very much and is now barely sufficient to meet over requirements, owing no doubt to the demand for labour on the New Government railways and roads here and in Selangor.

Health.—The health of the camp cannot be said to have been good, fever and dysentery being prevalent. It is better now, however.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the month is 23½ inches.

THE RAUB MINES.

THE NEW ELECTRIC POWER INSTALLATION.

There has been drawn up for the information of the shareholders in the Raub Australian Gold Mining Company a memorandum explaining the scope and detailed construction of the new electric power installation about to be laid down on the Raub concession. As the general public are also interested in the matter of mining developments at Raub, the memorandum has been communicated to the press for public information. It is given below:

The Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Limited, has recently announced a call of 1/- per share, payable on 7th February, 1898, and as this is principally to provide funds in relation to the provision of a new battery of 40 heads of stampers, and an installation for electricity as the motive power for all work at Raub, shareholders will be interested to know what has recently been arranged as to these matters.

The Directors have settled and executed a contract with Messrs. Johnson and Phillips of London for the supply and erection of the electric power machinery and hydraulic plant required for the installation.

The generating station will be situated on the bank of the Simpam River, a distance of

about 7½ miles from the distributing station at the mines.

The installation will be on what is known as the Two Phase system, this being considered by experts the one most suited to the Company's requirements, on account of simplicity of construction, and the ease with which repairs can be effected, should any be necessary, a very desirable condition where the plant is so far removed from any spot where electrical workmanship can be readily obtained, as will be the case at Raub.

The motive power will be transmitted to the generators by Pelton wheels, three of which will be erected, each to give 225 horse power, and to be capable of driving the alternator, to which it will be connected, to its full power, at a speed of 400 revolutions per minute under a head of water of 290 feet.

The generating plant is to be divided into three units, viz., three Pelton wheels, each of which will be directly coupled to an alternator, and any two of these units working together will be sufficient to furnish the full power the plant is guaranteed to deliver to the motors at the distributing station, viz., 300 horse power; thus should any accident happen to one of the generating units, the other two will be capable of doing full work, and each unit can be stopped periodically for cleaning and overhauling, without at all interfering with the delivery of power.

Power will be generated by the alternators at a pressure 5,000 volts and will be transmitted by two phase alternating currents, through overhead conductors, to the motors at the distributing station, where by suitable transformers (seven in number, six of which are to be sufficient to supply the whole of the power, the seventh being reserved as a spare one) it will be reduced to a pressure of 220 volts.

Eight motors will be supplied, viz.:

2 of 100 H.P. each = 200 H.P.
2 of 25 H.P. each = 50 H.P.
2 of 15 H.P. each = 30 H.P.
2 of 10 H.P. each = 20 H.P.

Total..... 300 H.P.

At the generating station end of the line thirty 16-candle power lamps and at the distributing station end of line seventy 16-candle power lamps will be provided for lighting purposes.

A telephone line will connect the generating and distributing station, &c.

The whole of the plant is to be ready for shipment from London by the end of May, 1898.

The installation is to be erected under a guarantee of efficiency from Messrs. Johnson and Phillips, and it will be practically a duplicate of the installation they carried out at the well-known Sheba Mine in South Africa. That installation has given complete satisfaction; the plant ran for a whole year, with stoppages aggregating only four days, made up of a quarter of an hour here, and twenty minutes there, to take up a belt, adjust a rope, examine a bearing, or give such little attention as are always required from time to time by running machinery.

The new battery, which has already been ordered, and shipment of which may be made from Melbourne during the month, as the contract was for delivery in December, 1897, consists of 40 heads of stampers, divided into 8 boxes of 5 heads each, complete with ripple tables, Berdan pans, &c., and also with rock breakers.

This machinery is being supplied by Messrs. Thompson & Son, of Castlemaine, Victoria, Australia, the makers of the battery now in use at Raub, which has worked continuously, without a single breakdown, and with the utmost satisfaction, for the past 7½ years, an ample guarantee for the efficiency of any plant supplied by this firm.

All preparatory work, such as clearing a track for the electric cables from the mines at Raub to the power station, making all necessary foundations at power station, and generally getting everything forward and in readiness for the reception of all this plant and machinery, is being pushed on at Raub, and good progress has already been made.

As regards the acquisition of rights over water power to be drawn from the Simpam River for generating electric power, the Raub Australian

Gold Mining Company is now in possession of a lease from the Government of Pahang for a term of years similar to, and running concurrently with, the lease of the Company's mining concession, and this includes permission to erect power generating stations, and to make cable tracks therefrom to the Company's mines.

The rights conveyed by this lease of water power, are considered ample not only for present requirements, but also for future developments.

The following is the Acting Mining Manager's Report for the four weeks ending on 13th January, 1898:-

Raub Hole Stopes.—As I advised you in my last report, the payable ore is now worked out to the intermediate level. This ore chute has extended fully 700 ft. with good payable gold the whole way. The ore still continues south but is not payable. It is my intention to further prospect this with the object of picking up another chute of payable ore. I have a party of coolies employed repairing the old drives and opening out some of the gold bearing leaders in the 120 ft. level.

Main West Crosscut.—This has been extended 29 ft. making the total distance from the Engine Shaft 435 ft. During the month we have passed through several small quartz leaders in which no gold could be seen. There is no change in the country here.

Main North Drive.—This has been extended 12 ft., making the total distance north from the crosscut 292 ft. The lode continues as usual, but is more irregular, occasionally making larger and then pinching again. At present there is a bunch of quartz in the face about 1 ft. thick, but no gold can be seen in it.

Bukit Koman 140 ft. Level North Drive.—The lode in the face will measure about 6 ft. of nice solid quartz in which fair gold can be seen in breaking down the ore. The drive has been extended 19 ft., making a total distance north from the crosscut of 593 ft.

West Leaders.—I have stopped stoping on these for the present as they are making in towards the main lode and can be worked to better advantage later on when stoping the main lode.

In the Main North Drive about 100 ft. north of these leader workings I have opened out west and am driving south on another leader. It is fully 2 ft. thick, of nice solid ore in which fair gold can be seen on breaking the ore.

Winze No. 1 North.—This down a total depth of 41 ft. Very slow progress is being made with the sinking as it is in solid quartz all the way.

South Main Level.—The lode has pinched again, there being only about 15 in. of fairly solid stone on the footwall west side of the drive, the rest of the drive being in clean slate.

Stopes.—The Leading Stop over the Main South Level continues small, there being only about 1 ft. of low grade ore on the footwall side. This is payable and has to be taken out to work the other stopes to advantage.

No. 1 South Stop.—The lode here is fully 12 ft. wide of bunches of quartz and quartz leaders intermixed with mullock, almost as much mullock as quartz. The leaders and quartz carry really splendid gold and as it is impossible to separate the ore from the mullock everything from this stope, including the mullock, is sent to the mill and crushed.

No. 2 Stope.—At No. 4 South Air Shaft the lode is fully 10 ft. wide of fairly solid ore in which good gold can frequently be seen in breaking the ore.

No. 3 Stope.—The lode is about 8 ft. thick of solid ore in which fair gold can be seen.

No. 4 Stope.—This is a new stope just started going north from the No. 3 South Air Shaft. The lode will average about 4 feet of solid ore which carries good gold. The lode is small at present but ought to increase in size as we go north.

No. 5 Stope.—The lode is very small here, there being only about 2 feet of low grade ore. I do not expect any improvement in this stope until we get nearer the surface, where we had good ore north of this.

Bottom Level South Drive.—The lode here is fully 16 feet wide of quartz and quartz leaders which carry fair gold. On the footwall side of these there is a bunch or horse of slate. This drive has been extended 12 feet, making a total distance south of 286 feet.

North Drive.—The lode in the face is about 6 ft. wide of solid ore in which nice gold can be frequently seen. The drive has been extended 10 ft. making a total distance of 210 ft.

Bukit Jellis.—Very good progress continues to be made with the sinking of this shaft, which is now sunk to a total depth of 178 ft. A quartz leader about 1 ft. thick has been cut. It is nice looking stone but no gold can be seen in it.

At present we are putting in a second draw-lift pump to take the water from below the 150 ft. level. All the material is ready and a start will be made in a day or two to put the pump in the shaft. The winding machinery referred to in my last report is now at work here. This will greatly help the sinking, as it was getting too deep to haul out of a big shaft by manual labour. This shaft will be sunk another 72 ft. before opening out and crosscutting for the lode.

Battery.—On Monday, 3rd inst., we had a clean up for the past eight weeks' work, when 2,026 tons of ore yielded 1,623 oz. 1 dwt. 0 grs. smelted gold, being an average of 16 dwts. per ton of ore crushed. This is a better yield as to tonnage and time work than we have had since I took over the management of the mine. From the appearance of the mine I have every reason to expect that this average will be kept up, if not improved on, in our next crushing. The following are the particulars of the ore crushed:

Bukit Koman ... 1,957 $\frac{1}{2}$

Raub Hole ... 68 $\frac{1}{2}$

Total ... 2,026 Tons

After effecting some necessary repairs crushing was resumed at 7 p.m. the same evening and has continued steadily since.

Electric Installation.—This work is being greatly hindered through the exceedingly wet weather we have had and also owing to the sickness of Mr. Walker, who is in charge of this work, he having been laid up with fever for ten days. Coolies will not work in the rain, but go back to camp, and should it clear up in the afternoon will not resume work unless there is some one to drive them to it. The weather has now apparently taken up and I am in hopes that better progress will be made. The cart road is practically completed from Sempam Gap to the power station. There is also over two miles of road, about finished between Tras and the Sempam Gap. A party of coolies are now at work levelling the pipe line, which is already cleared of standing timber. Another is employed felling the timber along the cable track.

General.—During the past four weeks it has rained almost daily, yesterday being the first day it did not rain some time during the 24 hours. At the beginning of the month it rained almost all day, not enough to make a flood, but a steady rain. The weather appears to have taken up, as we only get occasional showers now. I am glad to say the continuous rain has not done us any damage more than giving us extra water to pump. It has however, almost put a stop to our firewood supply, as coolies will not work cutting firewood with water dripping on them all day. Even if we had firewood it is quite impossible to cart it out of the jungle, owing to the state of the roads through the continuous rains. Luckily we had a large stock of firewood stacked alongside the railway in anticipation of the wet. From this stock we have been able to keep the different mines supplied. It is in weather like this that we get the advantage of the railway, as we have been able to keep the mines supplied with firewood and the mill with ore no matter what the weather was like. This we would not have been able to do with our old system of bullocks; in fact if it was not for the railway I am afraid our mill would be hung up for the best part of the month instead of earning a handsome profit, as it has done.

GILBERT B. WHYTE.
Acting Mining Manager.

At the general meeting on the 18th January, the Kobe Pier Company declared a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the past half year, and carried 3,449 yen to the next account and 5,000 yen to reserve fund. 89 steamers used the pier during the six months under review, and landed 67,135 tons of cargo and shipped 6,254 tons.

CRICKET.

CLUB V. A NAVAL ELEVEN.

On Saturday, the 29th January, a match was played between a Club eleven and a Naval eleven. This was practically a game between the second elevens and although the Naval side was strengthened by the introduction of Lt. Shelford the Club eleven secured an easy victory, thanks chiefly to the batting and bowling of Noble, who made 70 runs and took seven wickets for 13 runs; he was let off when he had made 24 and gave another hard chance at the wicket. Capt. Smith kept wicket well in the second innings of the Naval eleven, the catch disposing of Elliot being a particularly good one. For the Navy Elliot bowled very well as the analysis shows.

Following are the scores:

CLUB ELEVEN.			
J. F. Noble, b Meagher	70		
G. A. Woodcock, b Compton	49		
F. Lammert, b Elliot	3		
A. Anderson, b Rawson	15		
H. Twyford, b Elliot	1		
L. S. Crawford, b Elliot	0		
Capt. Smith, c and b Elliot	1		
J. M. Atkinson, c and b Shelford	11		
F. H. Kew, b Rawson	13		
D. Wood, not out	11		
H. A. Lammert, b Compton	5		
Extras	17		
Total	196		

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wickets.
H. Rawson	10	3	32	—	—	2
Armstrong	4	1	15	—	—	—
Peile	5	2	23	—	—	—
Compton	7.1	—	30	—	—	2
Meagher	6	1	30	—	—	1
Elliot	19	11	29	—	—	4
Shelford	9	3	20	—	—	1

NAVAL ELEVEN.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Lt. Shelford, b Noble	5	b Twyford	8
Peile, b F. Lammert	16	c Crawford, b Twyford	5
Rawson, b Noble	0	b. w., b Twyford	24
Compton, b F. Lammert	4	b. rawford	5
Elliot, b Noble	2	c Smith, b Crawford	4
Meagher, c Anderson, b	3	c Smith, b Crawford	0
Noble	6	c Noble, b Twyford	1
Armstrong, c Atkinson, b	0	not out	1
F. Lammert	6	c Noble, b Twyford	1
Brooke, b Noble	0	not out	1
Dutton, b Noble	0	0	0
Tottenham, b Noble	0	0	0
Stokes Rees, not out	0	b Twyford	3
Extras	7	Extras	7
Total	43	Total	58

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.		Second Innings.				
	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wickets.
F. Lammert	13.3	5	23	—	—	3
Noble	13	4	13	1	—	7

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

MR. WILKINSON'S PRIZE.

Sailed on Sunday, the 30th January, 1898, starting at 11 o'clock. The course was from the Police Pier, Kowloon, round Stonecutters Island, (port) a rock about a mile to the southwest of Cowichow (port), Stonecutters Island (starboard); 16 miles.

The wind was from the west at starting, but got round more to the south after passing clear of Stonecutters. Many of the boats were becalmed for about twenty minutes off Yaumati, the Maid Marian, Ladybird, Chanticleer, Sybil, Erica, Meteor and Seabreeze being very badly served. Active and Phoebe got away with a fine lead of about two miles from the above, and Dart, Payne, and Princess nearly a mile. In the beat up to the south-west mark off Cowichow, however, many changes took place, as will be seen by the following times of rounding:

	H.	M.	S.
Maid Marian	2	16	20
Princess	2	22	22
Erica	2	23	1
Phoebe	2	25	3
Ladybird	2	30	29
Active	2	31	44
Meteor	2	32	37
Chanticleer	2	32	49
Dart	2	36	0
Sybil	2	39	40
Payne	2	47	39

February 2, 1898.

At one time the Dart appeared to be a long way in front, but in the lighter wind off Green Island many of the other boats passed her. In the run down to Stonecutters, Erica passed Princess and caught up with Maid Marian, eventually getting into first place at the east end of Stonecutters' Island. Phoebe also passed Princess on the run, and the boats finished as below:—

	Finish.	Corrected time.	
Erica	4 26 46	4 26 46	Second
Maid Marian	4 29 56	4 27 25	Third
Phoebe	4 30 55	4 24 37	First
Princess	4 39 52	4 22 11	
Ladybird	4 40 41	4 28 9	
Active	4 43 28	4 34 18	
Meteor	4 43 30	4 36 42	
Chanticleer	4 46 51	4 39 54	
Sybil	4 49 33	4 36 2	
Dart	4 50 11	4 33 55	
Payne	4 52 15	4 36 33	

The Cup is thus won by the Phoebe, steered by Capt. Phillips, we believe.

This handicap was the mean of the competitors' handicaps, and in many cases the times worked out very near together.

MR. MITCHELL'S PRIZES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 1898.

This race was sailed in a fairly strong east wind. The course was from Kowloon Point, round east buoy off Meyer's oil works, Channel Rocks, Kowloon Rocks, Meyer's buoy, Channel Rocks, all to port, finish at the Police Pier, Kowloon; 10 miles. Times of finishing—

Handicap. Times. Corrected Times.

Mr. Hastings' Maid Marian	3 mins.	4. 13. 11	4. 10. 11
Mr. Denison's Erica	" Scratch	4. 15. 52	4. 15. 52
Mr. Kew's Meteor	4 mins	4. 23. 14	4. 19. 14
Mr. Pollock's Active	6 "	4. 25. 4	4. 19. 4
Mr. May's Phoebe	5½ "	4. 27. 17	4. 21. 47
Mr. Tomes's Chanticleer	4 "	4. 27. 55	4. 23. 55
R. E. Sybil	9 "	4. 29. 29	4. 20. 29
Dr. Clarke's Dart	10 "	4. 33. 21	4. 23. 21
Mr. Wilkinson's Ladybird	9 "	4. 35. 13	4. 26. 13
R. E. Payne	10 "	4. 38. 17	4. 28. 17

The Maid Marian thus wins the first prize and the Erica second.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

A PEAK RESERVOIR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—Why water should be allowed to run hundreds of feet down hill only to be pumped up again surpasses the wit of the average thoughtful man; yet this is to be seen in this otherwise enlightened colony of Hongkong. The visitor to the Peak who enquires where the Peak residents obtain their water supply from is informed that it is either pumped up or carried up from the reservoirs, which are at a level some hundreds of feet below. If there were no place where a reservoir could be formed at a higher level one would at once perceive the necessity for the labour and cost which this raising of water involves, but when by a casual glance around you find there are several possible locations for a reservoir above the level of most of the Peak residences one is amazed that one has not already been constructed. Now that the military authorities have taken over the Mount Austin Hotel it is to be presumed that they will avail themselves of the excellent locations adjoining that property both at and above its level to form reservoirs for the supply of the troops stationed there.

PRACTICAL ECONOMY.

Hongkong, 27th January, 1898.

THE BRITISH MINISTER AND CONSULAR SERVICE VERSUS CHINA'S EUROPEAN ADVISERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS,"

SIR.—The British public have for many years kept, and still keep, at great expense, a Minister at the Court of Peking and a large body of Consular representatives at the various open ports of China. It is to be presumed that they do this with the intention of deriving some return for their expenditure in the shape

of having their interests looked after by this expensive establishment, who were expected to see that the Treaties were not evaded and that any breach of them was at once brought to the notice of the authorities at home and the full performance of these Treaties demanded together with compensation for any loss sustained by a British trader by failure on the part of the Chinese to carry out their engagements. For very many years past the British taxpayers have been called upon yearly for the support of this expensive body and have received practically no return for their outlay, simply because China's foreign advisers have skilfully interposed themselves between the British Foreign Office and the Chinese Government, and the Foreign Office have, except in the matter of payment of salaries, thrown their own diplomatic service and intelligence department overboard in deference to the wishes and views of China's foreign advisers.

It is needless to detail the way in which this matter has been operated, for old residents in China know how the British and other Governments were bluffed by these gentlemen with visions of an enraged China rising in her millions to massacre and drive out the European invader, and when this failed to work some other bogie was conjured up. It seems necessary, however, to point out that these gentlemen still largely influence our Foreign Office (though they have lost all their weight with other European Governments), to the detriment of the advice which should be sought from our Consular Service.

Why not abolish the Consular Service and save a large and unnecessary expenditure or, better still, leave the European advisers of China to pursue their ordinary course of filling up numerous fat billets under the Chinese Government with their sisters, their uncles, and their aunts, and their aunts' friends, and turn a deaf ear to their blandishments, remembering that when the interests of Great Britain and those of the aforesaid sisters and uncles and aunts are weighed against each other in the scale by these loyal gentlemen a fat billet required for an additional aunt, or a handsome commission on putting a loan through, may send the British side of the scale up to the beam with a jerk and British interests again be cast in the mire, to stick there for another decade.

BRITISH PATRIOT.

Hongkong, 26th January, 1898.

THE DE SOUZA CASE AT MACAO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR.—I have refrained from writing you till now in order to allow your Macao correspondent to correct a misstatement in his communication with regard to the case of V. B. de Souza. I am at a loss to conceive with what intent he stated therein that the accused admitted the charge of having embezzled the sum of Tls. 10,000, the money of his employers, Messrs. Reiss & Co., Shanghai, when he, before a very large assembly of people in the court, who no doubt can give the lie, distinctly denied it, but confessed to having issued to one of the Chinese Hong Tafong some delivery orders for goods valued at Tls. 10,000 more in all, which the shroff in his deposition before the Consul in Shanghai admitted having cashed and deposited with the Chinese Banks in his (the shroff's) name, and which the shroff alleged having handed over to the accused in his residence unwitnessed.

The accused also confessed to having written a letter to his employers assuming the responsibility of the defalcation, thus absolving completely the shroff in order to save him (the shroff) from committing suicide.

The Chief Justice, Dr. Alpoim, in his sentence, however, found the accused guilty of having falsified the delivery orders and for having concealed the fact from his employers, because he being a servant of the firm of Messrs. Reiss & Co., it should have been his duty to have reported the matter to them, and sentenced him therefore to two years' imprisonment, taking into consideration his previous good conduct and character.

Thanking you in anticipation for the publication of the above in your next issue and enclosing my card.

W. Y. Z.
Macao, 27th January, 1898.

THE CHINESE CORPSE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—I have heard of doctors trying in the interests of science to galvanize a corpse into life, and succeeding in getting some signs of life into it while the current lasted, only to cease when the current was withdrawn. It seems that the British Government are still trying, in the interests of philanthropy, to galvanize the corpse of China into life, and the result can only be a few faint kicks or quivers while the current is maintained. When on earth are they going to realize this self-evident fact?

ANXIOUS ENQUIRER,

Hongkong, 27th January, 1898.

ELECTRIC SEARCH-LIGHT FOR THE PEAK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—Can you inform me whether the idea of a powerful electric search-light at the Peak has ever been mooted? A search-light say at the signal station or other suitable point might be most useful from a military point of view; in typhoon weather, also, it might prove useful in lighting up the harbour and showing whether any vessel was in distress and in need of assistance. Doubtless there are other uses it might likewise be put to which do not occur to me at present.

Perhaps the engine which works the tram might operate the light as well; if so the maintaining of a search-light at the Peak need not be an expensive matter.

LIGHT.

Hongkong, 28th January, 1898.

PRACTICAL ECONOMY AND LIGHT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—Would it not be possible for the Government to combine the suggestions of your correspondents "Practical Economy" and "Light" under one scheme, making use of the water that might flow into or out of the proposed Peak reservoir to drive a turbine and to furnish power for the search light when required.

If the above suggestion is considered unworkable, could not the Military Authorities establish treadmills at the Mount Austin Barracks, which, whilst providing gentle exercise for the troops stationed there, would furnish power for the search light when required.

The search light would probably be of little use during a great portion of the year on account of the clouds and mist at the Peak, unless the Government were to establish stations in the district for dispersing the clouds and desiccating the atmosphere. If this were accomplished, the popularity of the Peak district as a residential centre would be greatly enhanced by the absence of clouds, and the problem of a liberal water supply solved by storing in the reservoir the water extracted from the mists when other sources fail.—Yours &c.

DESICCATOR.

Hongkong, 28th January, 1898.

RUSSIAN TROOPS ON THE KIRIN FRONTIER.

The Shanghai mandarins have received intelligence from Manchuria to the effect that Russian troops numbering some 10,000 men have arrived on the frontiers of Kirin from the vicinity of the Russian Eastern outposts. There is much excitement amongst the high authorities of Kirin and Tsitsihar in consequence, and the Tartar General of the latter province has asked the permission of the Throne to raise 20,000 Tartars of Heilung-chiang, the arms and ammunition to be supplied from the Kirin and Moukden arsenals.—N. C. Daily News.

At Shanghai on the 24th January the dead body of a woman was discovered floating in the river off Kinleeyuen, and was found to be that of Amy Hall, a woman of loose life who had been missing for about six weeks and who had declared her intention of putting an end to herself. An inquest was opened and adjourned.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]
The Chinese New year holidays have passed over quietly. A good many shops have not yet resumed business. It is reported that business of nearly every description was unprofitable last year owing to the heavy likin taxes. Everything is very dear, which is the reason why the market is so dull. Formerly in the last few days before the New Year the streets in Canton were always crowded with people, but this time things were as quiet as at any other season. Robberies and thefts were reported from every district.

On the 24th instant the Magistrates of Nam-hoi and Punu jointly issued a notification to the following effect, namely, that China is on friendly terms with every nation and that under the treaty foreigners are allowed to travel anywhere they like, so that no foreigner should be ill-treated. If any lawless people try to ill-treat any foreigner, they will be severely dealt with.

A big fire occurred on the morning of Chinese New Year's day in Tungmaling, Suntak district. The fire broke out in a matshed. Over seven hundred houses were burnt to the ground. No loss of life has been reported. The fire originated in the burning of joss paper, which ignited the inflammable materials of the matshed.

A very daring robbery was committed on the 17th inst. upon a junk at Shikki, Heungshan district. The junk having been loaded was ready to start for Fatshan. Just when she was getting off, about two hundred robbers rushed forward in small boats, which were seized from the boat people of the place by the robbers. The junk people gave the alarm and opened fire on the robbers, who returned the same. Not long afterwards some lukongs of the place came to assist the junk people, but the robbers were very fierce and had an abundance of ammunition; so that the lukongs and the junk people were compelled to escape. The robbers then carried away all the valuables from the junk. There was more than three thousand dollars' worth of treasure on board, which had been shipped for Fatshan by the merchants of Shik-ki to pay debts. It is said that this case of robbery committed in broad daylight is the most daring ever reported. The affair while it lasted had the appearance of a skirmish between two hostile military parties. Several men were killed on each side.

HONGKONG.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., went home yesterday by the German mail steamer. During the week he was the recipient of farewell addresses from the Odd Volumes Society, the community, the Chinese, and the Parsees, the last three being presented at the City Hall an hour before Sir William sailed for England. A large number of residents went off to the steamer and wished him good-bye and a salute was fired as he left. In the afternoon H. E. Major-General Black was sworn in as the Officer administering the government of Hongkong. On the 27th inst. the Sanitary Board had a somewhat lengthy and important meeting. On the following afternoon Mr. Machell delivered an address to the Odd Volumes Society on the history and traditions of the Hongkong Chinese. On Saturday the foundation stone of a new reformatory, the gift of Hon. E. R. Belilius, was laid by Sir William Robinson. The shareholders in the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited, met at noon on Saturday. At a meeting of the Navy league held on Monday Captain G. C. Anderson gave a very interesting lecture on the objects of the League.

Among the passengers by the *Borneo*, which arrived on the 28th January, was Lieutenant T. Jackson, son of the popular Chief Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, who is joining the 1st King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.

It is notified in the *Government Gazette* that the Governor has, provisionally, recognized Signor Francesco Manca di Villahermosa as Vice-Consul for Italy at Hongkong. It is also notified that the Queen's exequatur has been issued empowering Don Tomas Rodriguez y Rodriguez to act as Vice-Consul for Spain at Hongkong.

At the Police Court on 31st Jan., before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, Mr. Spencer Deacon was fined \$25 for discharging crackers in Jervois Street to the danger of foot passengers on the night of the 21st January.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:

Roast Meat Guild...	\$100
Lo Cheung Ip	5

At the meeting of the Victoria Chapter, No. 525, E.C., held on 28th Jan., the following officers were elected:—M.E.Z., Ex Comp. D. Macdonald; H., Ex Comp. R. Mitchell; J., Comp. G. J. B. Sayer; Sc.E., Comp. G. Piercy, Jr.; Sc.N., Comp. G. C. Hayward; P.S., Comp. J. Loochhead; Treasurer, Comp. H. M. H. Nemazee; Janitor, Comp. J. Maxwell.

Rather a serious stabbing affray took place in Bridge Street on Wednesday night, 26th Jan. A native of Manila stabbed a fellow countryman in the back with a clasp knife and inflicted such injuries that the wounded man now lies in a somewhat dangerous condition in the Government Civil Hospital. His assailant escaped and has not been heard of since.

The annual meeting of the Institute of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong was held on Saturday in the premises of the Institute, Praya Central. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. D. Gillies, the President, Mr. A. Bain occupied the chair. There was a fair attendance of members. The annual report and statement of accounts were presented and passed. Mr. D. Gillies was re-elected President for the ensuing year; Mr. W. S. Bailey, Secretary; and Mr. A. Ritchie, Treasurer. Some other formal business was transacted, and the meeting closed with votes of thanks.

The throwing of small explosive "bombs" in the street may be an exhilarating joke, but it has its disadvantages. It is apt to get the thrower into trouble and to damage people's clothes. During the Chinese New Year festivities the police received many complaints respecting the dangerous practice, and on the 21st inst. Police Constable McSwaid caught a young man named F. F. Barrett throwing a "bomb" in Jervois Street when the thoroughfare was crowded with people. Barrett was summoned at the Police Court on 26th Jan. for throwing fireworks in the street to the danger of passengers, and he was fined \$10.

The master of a cargo boat and five of his fokis were charged at the Police Court on 27th Jan. with stealing ten bags of sugar, of the value of \$40, the property of the China Sugar Refining Company, Limited. The sugar was part of a cargo transferred from a steamer into the defendants' boat and just before it reached Messrs. Jardine's wharf the ten bags were thrown into a small boat and taken away. An Indian watchman saw the theft and on going on board the cargo boat he was assaulted and threatened with death by drowning. It is believed that a gang of thieves and some of the prisoners have been stealing a number of bags of sugar during the past two or three days. Three of the prisoners were sent to gaol for six months with hard labour and three were bound over to be of good behaviour.

A man was charged at the Magistracy on 26th Jan. with neglecting to limewash his premises at 49, Praya West. The work ought to have been carried out either in November or December, but it was not, and the defendant was summoned a few days ago because it was thought he was the rent collector. He told the Magistrate that he did not collect the rents and the case was therefore dismissed. He was again summoned and the tenant of the shop proved by receipts that he had paid his rent for November and December last to the defendant. Asked what he had to say the defendant talked about the departure from the colony of one of the principal owners of the house, of a dispute between the remaining owners, and of a law suit which was shortly to be heard to settle the question of who's who. His Worship said it was clear the defendant had collected the rent in November and December and therefore he was responsible, in the absence of the owner, for the proper cleansing of the premises. He was fined \$10. Defendant intimated that if he received this month's rent he would be happy to pay the fine.

Lieut. Howard, of the West Yorkshire, while riding at Singapore on the 17th January, was unfortunately thrown from his horse, breaking his collar bone in the fall.

The C. P. R. *Empress of India* left Vancouver one day late, and lost another day on the way over, instead of picking up time as she could ordinarily do. She encountered exceptionally heavy weather and on one day only 105 knots were made, such was the violence of the head seas and wind. The forward part of her upper works, bridge, etc., have been considerably knocked about by the heavy seas.

A house at 7, Ship Street was raided by the police a night or two ago and sixteen persons, including three women, were arrested for gambling in a common gaming house. The police informed the Magistrate that the premises were not known as a gambling house and his Worship discharged the defendants with a caution and ordered \$1.82 found upon them to be dropped into the poor box.

An examination in dock of the steamer *Kwanglee* shows the damage to be more extensive than was at first supposed, as two or three plates have been bent and they will have to be replaced. The repairs will take about three weeks to effect. It is expected that a week's work on the *Powan* will suffice to make good the repairs she requires. An inquiry into the collision will probably be held.

At five o'clock on Thursday afternoon, 26th Jan., a fire broke out in No. 12 ward of the Lunatic Asylum. There were three inmates in the ward at the time and it is said that one of them was playing with the fire in a stove and in some way ignited a rattan partition. The Fire Brigade promptly attended and the flames were extinguished before much damage had been done. A bed and the bed clothing and the partition were destroyed.

It is notified in the *Government Gazette* that the old system of meteorological signals and storm-warnings has been substituted for that published on the 27th February, 1897. The old system was reverted to on the suggestion of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, who pointed out that these signals had been in use in the colony from 1884 to 1896 inclusive and that they were better understood than the ones introduced last February.

The men who were caught at Quarry Bay with sugar concealed in one of the lighters were brought up again on 26th Jan. after two remands. One man was sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment and the others bound over in the sum of \$25 each to be of good behaviour. There is no doubt that this kind of robbery is carried on very extensively, owing to the facilities for purloining a little from each bag and the difficulty of detection. On Tuesday an Indian watchman who discovered some sugar hidden in one of the lighters of the China Sugar Refining Co. was violently assaulted.

The complete scores in the Volunteers' 64-pr competition, held on the 21st inst. at Stonecutters, are as follows:

Detachment.	Shooting.	Drill.	Time.	Points.
No. 1, Sergeant G. C. Hayward	180	77	10	247
" 6, McPhail	149	95	5	230
" 5, Acting Sgt. Henderson	149	70	10	220
" 3, Corporal Meek	100	65	5	170
" 4, Sergeant Kennett	70	80	10	100
" 2, Corporal Pucell	41	73	10	105

The maximum number of points was fixed at 200 for shooting and 100 for time, discipline, and drill. The No. 1 detachment hold the Challenge Cup for this year, and are the winners of Sergeants' Cup and silver badges.

The annual report of the Director of the Observatory for 1897 is published in the *Government Gazette*. During the year 65 per cent. of the weather forecasts were successful, 31 per cent. were partially successful, 34 per cent. were partial failures, and 2 per cent. were total failures. According to the method used in meteorological offices 96 per cent. of the forecasts were successful. The total rainfall for the year was 100.030 inches, the wettest month being August, when 25.550 inches of rain fell. June takes second place with 23.355 inches. The maximum temperature was 91.8, which was recorded in September. The daily maximum of rain was 6.030 inches and the hourly maximum 2.650, both being recorded in June. The law of storms in the Eastern seas is given as an appendix to the report.

February 2, 1898.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

1897-98	1896-97
lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	5,828,745
Shanghai and Hankow ...	14,058,839
Foochow	12,309,891
Amoy	685,651
	32,883,126
	37,094,280

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

1897-98	1896-97
lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	18,823,511
Amoy	14,522,772
Foochow	7,516,903
	4,863,186
	47,474,905

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

1897-98	1896-97
lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow ...	19,462,293
	22,949,123

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

1897-98	1896-97
lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	25,981,974
Kobe	15,050,463
	41,032,437
	40,591,052

SILK.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

1897-98	1896-97
bales.	bales.
Shanghai	8,227
Canton	9,471
Yokohama	26,277
	43,975
	18,981

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

1897-98	1896-97
bales.	bales.
Shanghai	39,308
Canton	18,611
Yokohama	16,779
	74,698
	62,350

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—There is no material change to report in the condition of this market since its re-opening after the China New Year holidays. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$45.75 to \$46.00. Sales, 350 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—Arrivals have been small and prices are advancing. Quotations are:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.40 to 7.45 per picul.
do. " 2, White... 6.95 to 6.99 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.75 to 4.80 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.63 to 4.65 "
Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.30 to 7.35 "
do. " 2, White... 6.92 to 6.95 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 4.65 to 4.70 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.55 to 4.60 "
Soochow Sugar Candy 11.12 to 11.25 "
Shekloong " 9.75 to 9.80 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Java*, sailed on the 22nd January. For Manchester:—355 bales waste silk. For London and/or Manchester:—215 bales waste silk. For London:—131 packages tea, 18 bales feathers, 15 bales canes from Foochow, 1 case cigars from Manila, 400 bales split bamboo, 439 bales canes, 350 bales waste silk, 1,743 rolls mats and matting, 28 cases bristles, 39 cases chinaware, 47 cases blackwoodware, 5 cases wooden trunks, 5 cases feathers, 3 cases lacquered ware, 6 cases silk piece goods, 2 cases cycles, 4 cases curios, 26 cases cigars, 2 cases sundries, 6 cases Persian opium, 8 packages effects, 3 packages rattan ware, 1 case copper gongs, 999 boxes tea (20,979 lbs. congo). For Trieste:—150 packages tea.

Per German steamer *Kriemhild*, sailed on the 20th January. From Hongkong for Odessa:—25 boxes staraniseed. For Havre:—125 rolls mats, 29 packages human hair, 10 boxes rice-paper, and 7 boxes redwoodware. For Havre option Hamburg:—70 cases bristles, 50 cases cassia, 25 cases staraniseed, 20 bales rattan shavings, and 2 boxes sundries. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—660 packages camphor. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London and/or Antwerp:—130 cases bristles. For Hamburg:—682 bales feathers, 494 bales canes, 300 cases broken cassia, 215 rolls mats and matting, 140 bales rattanware, 86 cases preserves, 40 cases essential oil, 40 casks wood oil, 15 casks preserves, 7 packages sundries, 3 cases curios, and 2 cases brassware. For Copenhagen:—22 packages chinaware and sundries. For Den Haag:—7 cases chinaware.

Per steamer *Orestes*, sailed on the 23rd January. For London:—12 cases indigo, 29 cases cigars, 33 cases curios, 450 cases and 25 casks preserves, 951 bales hemp, 150 bales canes, 5 bales and 15 boxes cassia, 313 bags gum, 33 packages shells, and 13 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—3,350 bales hemp, 1 case cigars, and 3 cases minerals. For Hamburg:—32 cases shells. For New York:—1 case sundries.

Per P. & O. steamer *Verona*, sailed on the 27th January. For London:—2 cases silk piece goods. For France:—101 bales raw silk, and 100 bales waste silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—Bengal.—The market has ruled steady during the interval, and prices close at \$71 1/4 for New Patna, \$70 1/4 for New Benares, and \$72 1/4 for Old Benares.

Malwa.—A fair amount of business has been transacted in this drug during the period under review. Quotations close as under:—
New(this year's) \$730 with allowance of 0 to 1/4 cts.
New(last year's) \$770 " 0 to 1 1/4 "
Old (2/3 yrs.) \$800 " 0 to 2 1/4 "
" (4/5 ") \$820 " 0 to 1 1/4 "
" (6/9 ") \$850 " 1 to — "

Persian.—There has been very little change in rates, closing quotations being \$490 to \$630 for Oily, and \$540 to \$660 for Paper-wrapped drug according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—
New Patna 2,200 chests.
New Benares 280 "
Old Benares 680 "
Malwa 340 "
Persian 1,100 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1898.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Jan. 27	71 1/4	—	70 7/8	72 1/4	730/770	800/880
Jan. 28	71 1/2	—	70 8/4	72 1/4	730/770	800/880
Jan. 29	71 1/2	—	70 8/4	72 1/4	730/770	800/880
Jan. 30	71 1/2	—	70 8/4	72 1/4	730/770	800/880
Jan. 31	71 1/2	—	70 8/4	72 1/4	730/770	800/880
Feb. 1	71 1/2	—	70 8/4	72 1/4	730/770	800/880

RICE.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—The supplies coming forward are limited and prices are advancing. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary..... \$2.35 to 2.40
" Round, good quality..... 2.60 to 2.65
" Long 2.80 to 2.85
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ... 2.45 to 2.48
" Garden, " No. 1 ... 2.90 to 2.95
" White 2.80 to 2.85
" Fine Cargo 3.95 to 4.00

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—
YARN AND PIECE Goods:—Bombay Yarn.—30 bales No. 6 at \$75.50, 30 bales No. 8 at \$76, 980 bales No. 10 at \$78.50 to \$92.50, 430 bales No. 12 at \$82 to \$87, 205 bales No. 16 at \$94 to \$98.50, 530 bales No. 20 at \$95 to \$102. Grey Shirtings.—350 pieces 7 lbs. chair at \$1.92 1/2, 300 pieces 7 lbs. Basket at \$1.92 1/2, 2,450 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$1.97 1/2, 2,300 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Joss B. at \$2.95, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Triangle at \$3.72 1/2, 2,000

pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Peach at \$2.90. White Shirtings.—500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.05, 750 pieces Gold Dragon at \$5.30, 2,000 pieces D. 70 at \$3.70, 250 pieces Girl and Flag at \$4.40, 1,000 pieces X 6 at \$3.85, 500 pieces X 7 at \$4.05, 1,000 pieces X 8 at \$4.70, 1,000 pieces X 9 at \$4.70, 1,000 pieces Elephant and Tree at \$5.35, 750 pieces Soldier at \$2.75, 1,500 pieces S. Q. at \$4.17 1/2, 2,500 pieces No. 800 at \$3.65, 500 pieces O at \$4.30, 1,000 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.05, 250 pieces Fan at \$5, 500 pieces No. 4,000 2 Fish at \$3.45, 800 pieces Blue Lion at \$6.—T-Cloths.—900 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican M. M. at \$2.40, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.37 1/2, 1,500 pieces 4 Birds at \$2.95, 1,000 pieces Dog and Vase at \$2.90, 1,200 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican V. V. at \$2.95, 1,800 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican X. M. at \$2.40, 3,000 pieces 7 lbs. Silver Lion No. 20 at \$1.85, 21,500 pieces Red Stag at \$2.37 1/2, 1,500 pieces Gold Dragon at \$2.32 1/2. Turkey Beds.—5,000 pieces 1 1/2 lbs. Mandarin at \$1.50, 1,000 pieces 3 1/2 lbs. Clock at \$1.95, 500 pieces 4 lbs. Clock at \$2.45, 250 pieces 3 1/2 lbs. clock at \$1.97 1/2. Spanish Stripes.—42 pieces B. B. at \$0.61 1/2. Camlets.—100 pieces Retriever at \$2.40, 260 pieces 9 Old Men assorted at \$17.75.

COTTON YAEN.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.	72.00	to	105.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	108.00	to	115.00
" 22 to 24	110.00	to	115.00
" 28 to 32	121.00	to	126.00
" 38 to 42	139.00	to	138.00

COTTON PIECE Goods.

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	1.70	to	1.80
7 lbs.	2.00	to	2.05
8 1/2 lbs.	2.45	to	3.15
9 to 10 lbs.	3.35	to	4.10

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.

2.35	to	2.55	
58 to 60 "	2.70	to	3.40
64 to 66 "	3.50	to	4.85
Fine	4.30	to	7.10
Book-folds	3.75	to	5.50
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.65	to	1.30
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.50	to	1.70
7 lbs. (32 "), "	1.85	to	2.10
6 lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	1.65	to	

SHANGHAI, 27th January.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—Although the Chinese New Year holidays have occurred during the interval, and therefore the greater part of it was a complete blank so far as business was concerned, sufficient has been done to justify a report for this mail. There certainly seems to be a tendency to curtail the festivities here as much as possible, at all events in this branch of the trade, for some of the dealers were round trying to pick up bargains on the fourth day of the moon, which is unusually early, the Native Banks seldom opening before the fifth, and on this occasion the foreign Banks were closed until to-day, the sixth. Considering the important factor that Exchange is in all transactions nowadays it was a little trying to holders to fix a selling price without knowing what sterling rates would be, but as a rule they seem to have been inclined to meet enquirers in a liberal manner, and a fair number of transactions, of more or less a complimentary character, have taken place. It is early yet to pass any judgment on the prospects for the season, but so far they undoubtedly look very auspicious. All the leading Native Hongs appear to have resumed business and also a fair proportion of the Banks, it being a little early as yet for the latter to show their full strength. That a little more care will be exercised in giving credit to outside men in the trade will surely be the outcome of the experience of the past season, and Importers need no caution to beware of the men of straw who did so much to bring discredit on the trade last year. The Yuen Fong Auction was held this morning and passed off satisfactorily, considering that no advices have as yet come in from the out-of-the-markets, and what was bought was simply in anticipation of orders. There is a decidedly firmer feeling in the Yarn market and transactions in both Indian and Local spinnings show an advance. Prices in Japan are on the boom, and it is thought that the recurrence of the plague in the Bombay Presidency will curtail supplies from that quarter. The local dealers are asking high prices for Cotton, but so far, with exception of a small quantity of common quality for Japan, nothing has been done. Large supplies of the raw staple are being shipped from America for both Japan and China at prices that will lay it down well under what is wanted for native Cotton at present.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 1st February.—The market has been somewhat quieter during the week under review with no special features to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have changed hands in small lots at quotation and are still obtainable for cash and at equivalent rates on time. Nationals have found small buyers at \$19 and \$19½.

MARINE INSURANCES.—All remain quiet at quotations and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have ruled steady but quiet with small sales at \$375, whilst Chinas have improved to \$109½ after sales at \$108, \$108½, and \$109.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos continue weak and out of favour at \$27½ ex dividend paid yesterday. Douglasses have found buyers at \$57½, closing with sellers. Indo-Chinas have been negotiated at \$55 and \$56 for cash. China Mutuals and China Manilas remain unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled quiet but steady at \$168 with a small business at that and equivalent rates for March and April. Luzons continue more or less neglected at quotation, and with sales at \$43½, closing at \$43 with sellers.

MINING.—Punjoms continue steady, a small demand having sent them up to \$7½ with sales, closing with strong buyers at \$7½ whilst preferences have been done at quotation. Charbonnages have improved to \$120 with buyers and no shares available except at a substantial advance. Balmorals remain inactive with sellers at quotation and little or no business to report. Jelebus have changed hands at quotation, also Olivers and Great Easterns, all closing quiet. Raubs have been dealt in to a fair extent at \$22½ and close with shares offering at that rate cash and at equivalent ones forward.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been done at \$74 cum dividend and close with buyers at \$72 ex dividend. Hotels have been quiet and on offer at \$54 without business. West Points continue quiet at \$20.25 ex dividend.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled firm and have changed hands at 234 and 236 per cent. prem., closing with buyers at the latter rate. Kowloon Wharves quiet and without business at \$58. Wanchais remain steady with no business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Fenwicks have changed hands at \$29½ and are now wanted at \$30. Watsons have been done at \$11.90 and Ropes at \$172. Cottons remain dull with only small sales of Laou Kung Mow's at Tls. 106.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY,	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		\$357½, sellers
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	186 " prem=
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£3 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£5.5s., buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$20
Founders Shares..	£1	\$20
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	£1	\$5
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8.75, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$168, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 100, buyers
Hongkong	\$29	\$17, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 110
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 100, sales
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 540
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 90
Dairy Farm Co.....	£5	\$5½
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$30, buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$34, sellers
Do. New Issue.....	£2½	\$18
H. & China Bakery ...	£50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$120
Hongkong Electric ...	£10	\$10, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$105
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$54, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$113, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G...	£50	\$58
Hongkong Rope.....	£50	\$172, sal. & buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$13½ pt. prem=
Insurances—		420, sales & b.
Canton.....	\$50	\$150, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$109½, sales
China Traders'	\$25	\$70, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$375
North-China	£25	Tls. 148
Straits	\$20	\$144, sellers
Union	\$25	\$229, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$142½, sellers
Land and Building—		& buyers
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$72, ex div. sales
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9.25
Kowloon Land & B...	\$30	\$17½, ex div. sales
West Point Building	\$40	\$20½, ex div.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$18, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$120, buyers
Great E. & C'donian	£5	\$6
Do. Do.	£2½	\$3.10, sales
Jelebu	£5	\$2, sales & buyers
New Balmoral	£1	\$1.10, sales
Do. Preference ...	£1	\$1.35, buyers
Oliver's Mines, A....	£5	\$19, sellers
Do. B...	£2½	\$3, sellers
Punjom	£5	\$7½, sales & buyers
Do. Preference...	£1	\$2, sales
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$22½, sal. & sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$10	\$18, sellers
Steamship Cos.—		
China and Manila ...	£50	\$76, sellers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£2 15s. sellers
Do. Preference...	£10	£7 10s. sellers
Do. Do.	£10	£5 10s. sellers
Douglas S. S. Co....	£50	\$57½, sal. & sellers
H. Canton and M...	£15	£27½, ex div. sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$56, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	£5	\$5, sellers
Do.	£2	\$2, sales
United Asbestos	£2	\$2, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37½	\$41½, sales
Watson & Co., A. S....	\$10	\$11.90, sales

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 28th January.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—The Chinese New Year holidays have interrupted business. Banks.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation. The only business reported on our market is a small sale at 187 per cent premium for cash. No business is reported in National Bank of China shares. Marine Insurance.—Unions are offering at \$220. North Chinas have changed hands at Tls. 200. China Traders' shares are offering at \$71, and Cantons at \$150. Straits shares have been purchased from Hongkong at \$15½. Fire Insurance.—Chinas have changed hands here at \$108, and shares are offering at the

same price. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have been in demand, and business was done at Tls. 40 cash and Tls. 41/42 for the 30th April. Sugar Companies.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were placed for delivery on the 31st March at Tls. 37. China Sugar Refining shares were sold for delivery on the 31st March at \$170 and \$172½. Luzon Sugar Refining shares are wanted at \$43. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—S. C. Farnham & Co. shares were sold on private terms, and are offering at Tls. 165. Shanghai Dock shares were sold at Tls. 70, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares at Tls. 122. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 92 and Tls. 93. Industrial.—International Cotton Mill shares were placed at Tls. 112 cash and Tls. 116 for the 30th April. Laou-Kung-Mow shares at Tls. 110 for the 31st March, and Yah Loong shares at Tls. 92½. Miscellaneous—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares have changed hands at Tls. 93 cash and Tls. 92 and Tls. 95 for the 31st March. Shanghai-Langkat Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 400 cash, Tls. 410 for the 31st current, and Tls. 430/450 for the 31st March, and Tls. 450 for the 30th June. Loans.—Shanghai Land 6 per cent. Debentures were placed at Tls. 101/2, and Country Club 6 per cent. Debentures at Tls. 100, plus the accrued interest in both cases.

Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.	—\$358.75.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited.	deferred shares.—£5.50.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited.	ordinary shares.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ld.	—\$20.
National Bank of China, Ld. Founders.	—\$23.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ld.	—\$230.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ld.	—\$71.
North China Insurance Co., Ld.	—Tls. 200.00.
Yangtsze Inse. Assocn., Ld.	—\$140.
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.	—\$150.
Straits Insurance Co., Ld.	—\$154.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	—\$367½.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	—\$108.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.	—\$29
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ld.	—Tls. 40.00.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ld.	—\$57.
China Mutual Steam. Nay. Co. pref. shares.	—Tls. 52.00.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ld.	—Tls. 36.00.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.	—\$165.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ld.	—\$40.
Sheridan Consolidated* Mining and Milling Company, Limited.	—Tls. 2.50.
Punjom Mining Co., Ld.	—\$64.
Punjom Mining Co., Ld. pref. shares.	—\$1.20.
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ld.	—\$2.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld.	—\$23.
Boyd & Co., Ld., Founders.	—Nominal.
Boyd & Co., Limited.	—Tls. 182.50.
S. C. Farnham & Co.	—Tls. 165.00.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ld.	—\$413½.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.	—Tls. 122.00.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Go Town Company, Limited.	—\$58.00.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld. (fully paid)	—Tls. 92.50.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ld.	—\$74.00.
Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ld.	—\$19.00.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ld.	—\$94.
Shanghai Gas Co.	—Tls. 217.00.
Major Brothers, Limited.	—Tls. 32.00.
Evo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ld.	—Tls. 100.00.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ld.	—Tls. 112.00.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ld.	—Tls. 105.00.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ld.	—Tls. 540.00.
Shanghai Ice Company.	—Tls. 104.00.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ld.	—Tls. 205.00.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ld.	—T. Tls. 110.00.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.	—Tls. 185.00.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.	—nom.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.	—Tls. 305.00.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.	—Tls. 93.00.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld.	—Tls. 400.00.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ld.	—Tls. 75.00.
J. Llewellyn Co., Limited.	—\$60.00.
Hall & Holtz, Ld.	—\$38.50.
A. S. Watson Co., Limited.	—\$12½.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ld.	—\$5.00.
Hongkong Electric. Co., Ld.	—\$10.00.

EXCHANGE.

TUESDAY, 1st February.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/10
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11
Documentary Bills, 4 months sight	1/11

On PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.384
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.42
On GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.92
On NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	46
Credits, 60 days' sight	47
On BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	142
Bank, on demand	142
On CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	142
Bank, on demand	142
On SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73
Private; 30 days' sight	74
On YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	6½ pm.
On MANILA.—	
On demand	9 pm.
On SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 ½ pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.42
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	54.50

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 28th January (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—The Chinese New Year Festivities have intervened since our last issue on the 14th instant, and during the interval London rates have fallen from 30s. to 22s. 6d. It is understood that those concerned have agreed to go on to lower, but it is generally expected that a cheaper rate will eventually be arrived at. For New York 2½s. 6d. is still the ruling rate. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 22s. 6d.; waste silk 25s.; tea 22s. 6d.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 22s. 6d.; waste silk 25s.; tea 22s. 6d.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 30s.; waste silk 32s. 6d.; tea 30s.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 35s.; Konigsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 30s.; waste silk 32s. 6d.; tea 30s.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 35s.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 30s.; waste silk 32s. 6d.; tea 30s.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 22s. 6d.; waste silk 25s.; tea 22s. 6d. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net; waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Saigon, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Bangkok, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Nagasaki, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Kobe, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Manila, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Newchwang, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Newchwang to southern ports, season closed.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Shanghai (str.), Pingsuey (str.), Ceylon (str.), Ganges (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—Doric (str.), China (str.).
For NEW YORK.—Lyderhorn (str.), Ghazee (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of India (str.).
For BREMEN.—Darmstadt (str.).
For BALTIMORE.—Standard.
For PORTLAND.—Braemar (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—Australian (str.), Omi Maru (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—Inaba Maru (str.).
For SEATTLE.—Kagoshima Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

Janatry—
AERIALS.
26, Tritos, German str., from Saigon.
27, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
27, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
27, Kingsing, British str., from Swatow.
27, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
27, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
27, Doric, British str., from San Francisco.
27, Empress of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
27, Rickmer Rickmers, Ger. ship, from Cardiff.
27, Rio, German str., from Amoy.
27, Port Adelaide, British str., from Amoy.
28, Borneo, British str., from London.
28, Alacrity, British des.-ves., from Chusan.

28, Changsha, British str., from Moji.
28, Esang, British str., from Bangkok.
28, Oslo, Norwegian str., from Moji.
29, Wosang, British str., from Canton.
29, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
29, Singan, British str., from Chefoo.
29, Amara, British str., Saigon.
29, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
29, Crefeld, German str., from Wilhelmshaven.
29, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
29, Hanoi, French str., from Hoihow.
29, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
29, Wongkoi, British str., from Mororan.
30, Hydaspe, British str., from London.
30, Keelung Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
30, Picciola, German str., from Singapore.
30, Hohenzollern, German str., from Japan.
30, Chiayen, Chinese str., from Canton.
30, Daphne, German str., from Canton.
30, Kalgan, British str., from Canton.
30, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
31, Ask, Danish str., from Hoihow.
31, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
31, Preussen, German str., from Shanghai.
31, Tiger, Norwegian str., from New York.
31, Laos, French str., from Shanghai.
31, Frejr, Danish str., from Pakhoi.

February—

1, Natal, French str., from Marseilles.
1, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
1, Cain, British str., from New York.
1, Phra C. C. Kiao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
1, Sullberg, German str., from Haiphong.
1, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
January—
DEPARTURES.
27, Chiayen, Chinese str., for Canton.
27, Verona, British str., for Europe.
27, Paoting, British str., for Shanghai.
27, Lyceemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
27, Pronto, German str., for Macao.
27, Toyo Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
28, Dagmar, Norw. str., for Yokohama.
28, Germania, German str., for Hongay.
28, Prometheus, British str., for Shanghai.
28, Bormida, Italian str., for Bombay.
28, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
28, Independent, German str., for Singapore.
28, Taichow, British str., for Bangkok.
28, Yamashiro Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
29, Hansa, German str., for Saigon.
29, Wuotan, German str., for Saigon.
29, Chowfa, British str., for Bangkok.
29, Whampoa, British str., for Saigon.
29, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
29, Terrier, Norwegian str., for Kebao.
30, Amara, British str., for Kobe.
30, Borneo, British str., for Shanghai.
30, Chingping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
30, Chw'nsian, British str., for Yokohama.
30, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
30, Kingsing, British str., for Kobe.
30, Lienshing, British str., for Nagasaki.
30, Mongkut, British str., for Bangkok.
30, Phra Chom Kiao, Brit. str., for Bangkok.
30, Phra Nang, British str., for Bangkok.
30, Singan, British str., for Swatow.
30, Wuhu, British str., for Saigon.
31, Daphne, German str., for Chinkiang.
31, Kalgan, British str., for Saigon.
31, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
31, Nanchang, British str., for Saigon.
31, Petrarch, German str., for Kiaochow.
31, Port Adelaide, British str., for New York.
31, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
February—

1, Rio, German str., for Saigon.
1, Wosang, British str., for Kobe.
1, Picciola, German str., for Swatow.
1, Pronto, German str., for Touron.
1, Changsha, British str., for Australia.
1, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
1, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
1, Bygdo, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
1, Glenfalloch, British str., for Swatow.
1, Loyal, German str., for Yokohama.
1, Natal, French str., for Shanghai.
1, Onsang, British str., for Singapore.
1, Preussen, German str., for Europe.
1, Tacoma, British str., for Tacoma.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.
Per Catherine Appear, from Calcutta, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Levy, and children, Mr. and Mrs. Mills, Miss Schraff, Messrs. Landsberg, Pye Longhurst, Webster, Essabhoj, and Anderson, Master Essabhoj, and Miss Staley.

Per Devawongse, from Bangkok, Mr. Wallace.
Per Formosa, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. F. B. Marshall and Baron Foy.

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Per Amara, from Saigon, Mr. S. Tamamoto.

Per Crefeld, from Wilhelmshaven, &c., 8 Officers, 6 Non-Commission Officers, and 300 men, H.I.G.M. Navy.

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Per Kutsang, for Calcutta, Mr. W. W. Scott; for Singapore, Capt. P. Vackhouse.

Per Hailoong, for Amoy, Revs. K. F. Rankin and J. Beattie.

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Per Yamashiro Maru, for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. Richard.

Per Lyceemoon, for Shanghai, Messrs. Barker,ville-Mason, Nelson, and Hartlep.

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